Richard Long was born in Bristol in 1945. He studied at the University of the West of England’s College of Art (1962-65) and then at St Martin’s School of Art and Design, London (1966-68). There he was under the guidance of the well known artists Anthony Caro and Phillip King.

Long became associated with the emergence of a genre from the 1960’s called Land Art. He also began experimenting with the idea of impermanence - i.e. that artwork does not have to permanent.

In the 1970’s Long’s work took place mostly as he walked through the landscape making slight alterations to the ground or minor adjustments to natural features, such as upending stones or tracing his path in the ground.

In a significant early piece, Long walked back and forth along a straight line in the grass and photographed the path he had made in black and white. This idea of making a sculpture by walking has influenced many of Long’s sculptures. He records these journeys in a variety of ways such as, a photograph, map, text or an installation.

Cornish Slate Line (1990)
Size: 2530cm x 260cm x 7.5cm

Cornish Slate Line was originally created for an exhibition in the Duveen Galleries at the Tate Gallery in London along with two other works Norfolk Flint Circle and White Water Line. All three pieces use natural materials found commonly in Britain. The Cornish Slate Line comprises of pieces of slate arranged systematically, that the artist has collected on a journey through the cornish countryside. In the gallery, the installation ran from one doorway to another, tempting the visitor to walk upon it.

Land Art is the name given to artwork which is inspired by natural processes.

Artists use organic substances for their raw materials such as wood, soil and stone and show a consideration for the environment.

“The music of stones, paths of shared footmarks, sleeping by the river’s roar”
To recreate the concept of your walk today, what natural materials could you use and how would you use them?

On his website Long says he creates: “Works using raw materials and my human scale in the reality of landscapes”

What is the significance of using his human scale in his Land Art?

For more information about the artist visit his website: www.richardlong.org

Also watch a clip of him creating his piece Road River on Youtube:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_nQl srLOJc

Consider how you have walked to get to the Cornish Slate Line. Using a variety of marks, create a map of your walk.

Draw detailed study of part of the Cornish Slate Line. Use crosshatch shading.