

# Step Stile



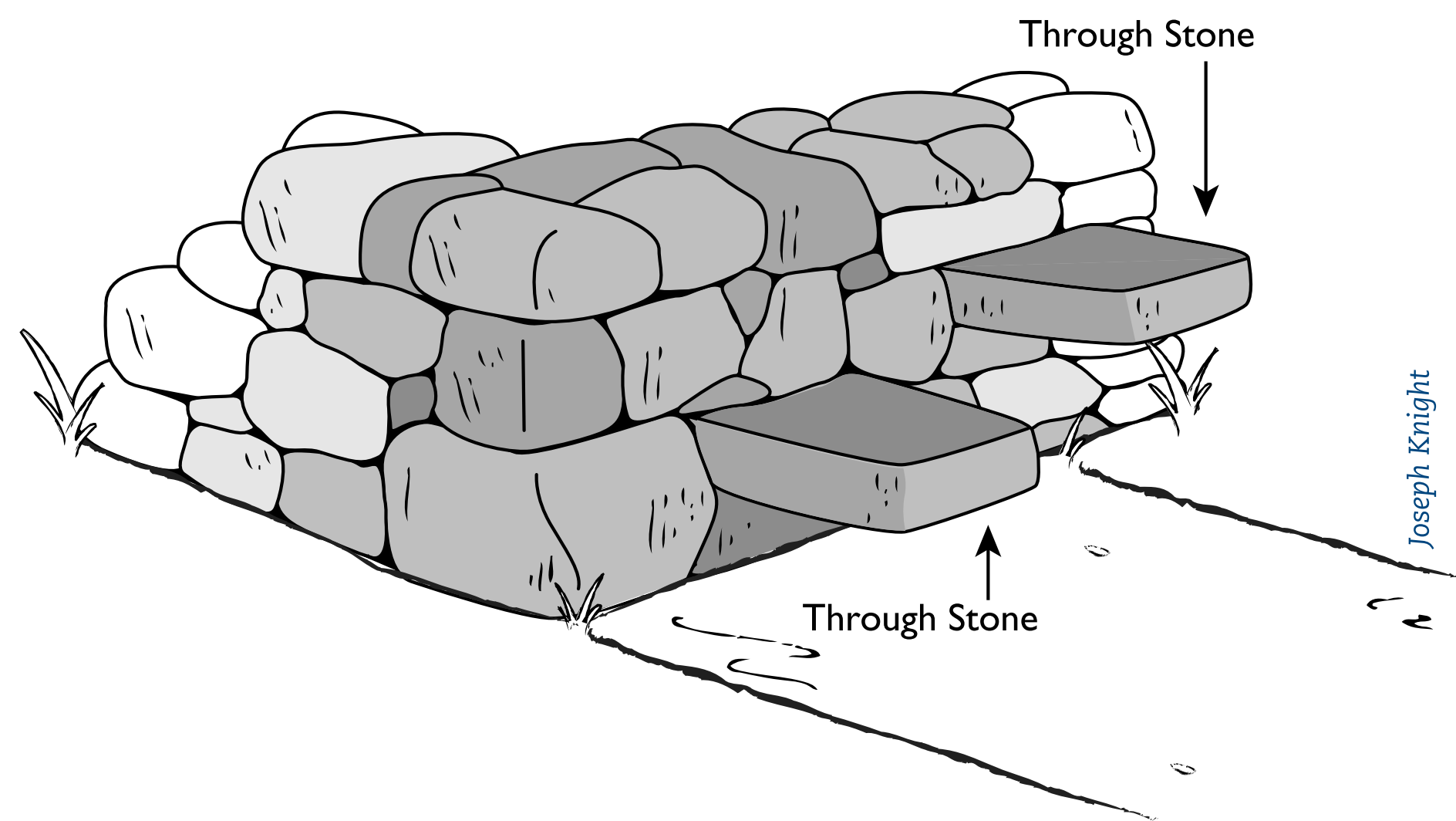
John Hayes/Flickr.com

**ABOVE** This wooden step stile allows hikers to cross over a barbed-wire fence.

**BELOW** Stone step stiles require large stones to be built into the wall.



Kevin Simpson



Joseph Knight

Step stiles are used to allow people passage over a wall or fence. Stiles may be simple wooden ladders built into or over fences; narrow gaps in fences or stone walls; or stone stairs built into and over the wall. On the Appalachian Trail you will find step stiles where the Trail passes through farmers' fields. They are relatively easy for people to climb up and over, but impossible for animals to cross. Stiles are also used to allow passage over historic walls while not destroying the structures.