



ACTIVITY

Make a Simple Bug or Ladybird Home

Create an insect hotel for the garden at school or to take home.

Estimated time: 30 minutes

Location: Outdoors & Indoors

School term: All year round

Level of experience: No experience needed

Subject(s): Science, Art&DT

Learning objectives

- ✓ Learn about hibernation
- ✓ Learn about native wildlife
- ✓ Care for the environment
- ✓ Make an object fit for purpose

Step by step

- 1** Cut the end off a plastic drinks bottle or cut a plastic pipe to 20cm in length. Plastic plant pots can also be used.
- 2** Make newspaper tubes by cutting newspaper lengthways and rolling up. Ensure there is a hole in the centre of around 4mm. Rolled corrugated cardboard can also be used.
- 3** Cut the material to the length of the pot or bottle. The bamboo needs to be cut so that the solid node is at the closed end or the whole length is hollow.
- 4** Fit the materials tightly into the drinks bottle or pot, so they won't fall out. Ensure the hollow ends are facing outwards, and will be protected from rain.
- 5** Hang almost horizontally in a warm spot with the open end slightly lower to prevent water logging. Bug homes are best placed no higher than 1m above the ground.
- 6** The best season to make a bug home would be early autumn, so the insects have somewhere to hibernate for the winter.



Preparation

Think about which insect you are looking to attract with your bug home.

Try to find out more about them and where they usually hibernate.

Equipment needed

- 2 litre plastic drinks bottle or plant pot
- Use a piece of plastic pipe e.g. down pipe
- Bamboo canes or plastic straws at least 4mm in diameter or rolled newspaper
- Corrugated cardboard
- Scissors
- Waterproof tape or string

Hints & tips

- 💡 Insects need somewhere to stay during the winter
- 💡 Ladybirds are very helpful to gardeners as they eat aphids that damage plants