



Outdoor Box - Bee & Bug Hotels

This activity is for Scouts
but any section or leaders
could take part too !

What you need:

- Containers (various tins or wooden boxes)
- Natural materials: leaves, cones, twigs, moss, bamboo, shells, nut shells or grasses
- Recycled materials: cardboard rolls, lolly sticks, rope, drain pipe, pallets, bottles, plant pots, old frames, bricks, newspaper etc.
- Basic tools
- Computer with internet access



How to make it:

The fun of building a bee & bug hotel is that you can do it for free, using items that can be found in your house and garden. Making a habitat for creepy crawlies and even bees is really important as it gives protection from the elements for minibeasts and also helps us to learn about nature.

1. Fill a container with a selection of items, both natural and recycled items, to create a tightly packed habitat for minibeasts or bees to live - you can be small or go big, depending on space.
2. Be creative and add a variety of habitats within the container to appeal to different creatures.
3. Make sure when positioning the "hotel" in your garden, it's protected from the wind and rain cannot easily run into it.
4. Be patient as it might take some time and a few attempts to attract the first "guests" to move into your hotel - the more aged the container becomes the more attractive it is to nature.
5. Finally, research the minibeasts that might move into your "hotel" on the internet, so you know what to look out for: Wood Lice, Snails, Bees, Ants, Slugs, Butterflies, Ladybugs and Beetles.

Take it further:

You can make bee and bug hotels using a variety of different containers - a simple one can be made using an empty drinks bottle.

These make great gifts to share with family, Neighbours and friends and show them how easy it can be to help mini beasts in our gardens.



Safety Notes:

Scissors / Sharp Objects: Supervise young people appropriately when using scissors and other tools. Store all sharp objects securely, out of the reach of young people.

Rubbish and Recycling: All items should be clean and suitable for this activity.

Gardening and Nature: Wash your hands after the activity has finished and wear gloves if needed.

Online Access: Supervise young people when they're online and give them advice about staying safe.