

Build a bug hotel

Activity guide:

Equipment required:

- Print out the worksheets, one per group
- Wooden pallets or planks of wood
- Bricks
- Old plastic bottles
- Bamboo canes
- Straw / leaves / twigs / bark / stones and pebbles
- Tiles
- Cardboard

To build the hotel:

The best time to build a bug hotel is in the autumn because the materials are more freely available but you can build them at any time.

1. Divide the pupils into a few groups. If you have enough equipment then each group could make their own hotel, if not you could divide up the jobs instead, for example one group fills the plastic bottles, one group stacks the pallets, one group pots up plants for the top, make the sign etc.
2. Stack the pallets or planks of wood using the bricks in between each layer so that you create lots of small rectangular sections.
3. Fill the sections with different combinations of items to create different sizes and types of gap and crevice.
4. Fill gaps with leaves and straw.
5. Add plants or turf to the top of the pallet stack.
6. The completed structure can be decorated; maybe include a hotel name sign or insect pictures painted on wood and stones.

1 - 2
Hours



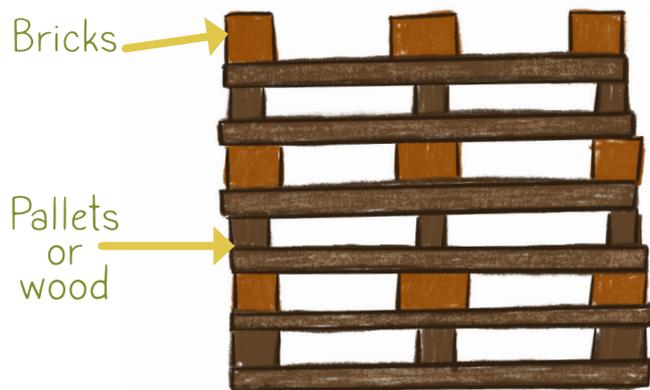
Bug hotel



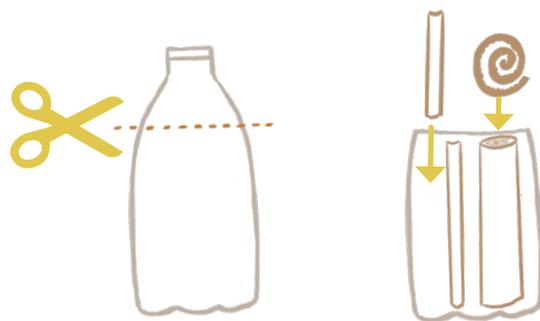
Help insects get through the winter by building a bug hotel.

Make sure it's got lots of different materials, gaps and crevices so that lots of different kinds of insects can live there.

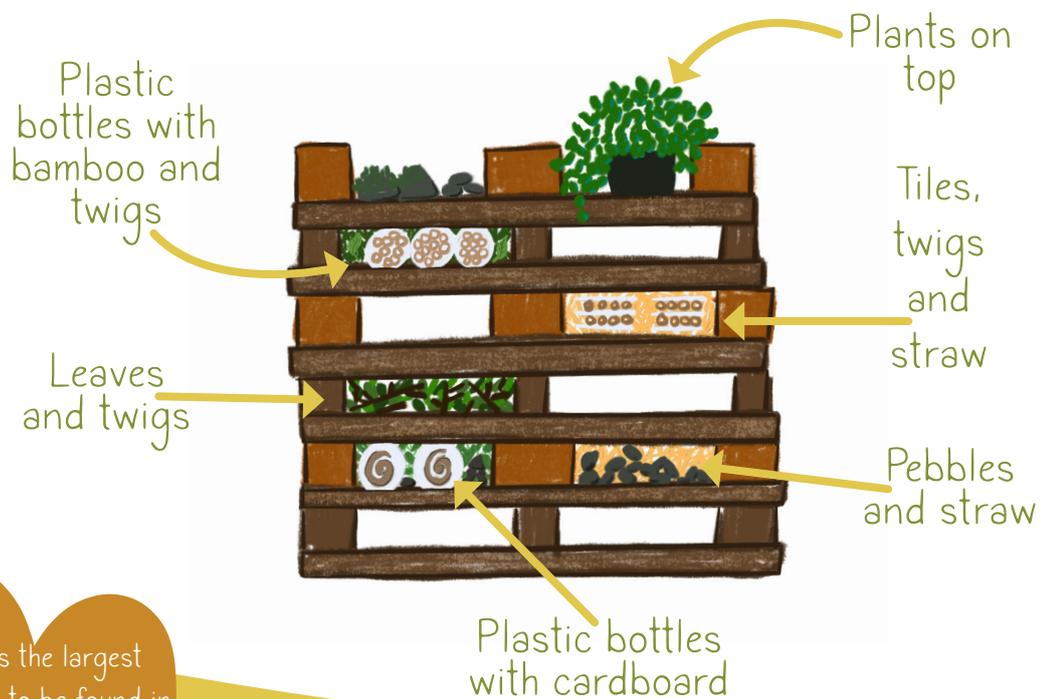
1) In groups, stack up your pallets or bigger pieces of wood in between bricks so that you end up with little sections.



2) Fill your plastic bottles with the bamboo canes or rolled up cardboard. Make piles of tiles and twigs.



3) Fill in the gaps with straw, leaves, twigs and pebbles. Make all the sections different and fill all of them up. Add plants to the top.



The stag beetle is the largest species of insect to be found in the UK.