



Earth Day Bug Hotel (suggested age: 3+)

Gather

- A container, like a basket or small wooden box
- Natural materials, such as sticks, pinecones, pieces of bark, leaves
- Optional: string or twine
- Optional: hammer and nail, or other tools for hanging your Bug Hotel

Let's Make It!

1. Go on a nature walk and collect some natural materials, such as sticks, pinecones, acorns and acorn hats, pieces of bark, leaves, and other natural materials you think insects may like.
2. Find a suitable container, such as a basket or a small wooden box. A cardboard box can become a bug hotel as long as you find a suitable area, just make sure this area stays dry when it rains.
3. Fill your container with natural materials. You can organize them by material, size, color, or any way you'd like. You can also use string or twine to tie materials together.
4. Choose a good spot for your bug hotel! Is there an area nearby where you already see lots of bugs? Place your bug hotel and come back to check it periodically to see if any bugs have moved in!
5. Optional: If you'd like to hang your bug hotel up, ask an adult to see if you can find a way to safely attach your bug hotel.

How Does It Work?

Many small creatures and bugs feel safe when they are in a small, covered space, because it helps protect them from predators. Small, woody crevices like bug hotels are also ideal habitats for solitary bees. Though our first thought might be honeybees and bumblebees when we think of bee pollinators, solitary bees make up more than 90% of the varieties of bees. Solitary bees do not make honey, but they are excellent pollinators.

Take it further

There are many different insects, arachnids, and other creatures who may visit your bug hotel! To learn more about all things creepy crawlies, check out www.pestworldforkids.org

