

Insects are a very important part of any food chain and are required for a healthy ecosystem. Unfortunately developments such as towns and roads limit places where these important creatures can live and take shelter. During this activity dolphins will learn how easy it is to create a haven for and attract insects and other mini-beasts that are so important to wildlife.

Instructions

1. Take a plastic bottle and cut off the top and bottom with a pair of scissors so you are left with a plastic tube.
2. Fill the tube with a selection of twigs, pinecones and stones of various sizes to create lots of little hiding places for creepy crawlies. Use different sizes of twigs and sticks to make many different size holes for different types of insects. Make sure to fill the tube with as many things as possible so they do not fall out when hung up. Some twigs and sticks may need to be cut to size so they do not poke out of the plastic tube and get very wet.
3. Wrap tube with string, or wire at both ends and attach both with a larger loop to use to hang from a structure or branch, making sure that the tube is balanced horizontally so it does not fill with water.
4. Decorate to attract as many insects as possible to the new hotel.
5. Hang the hotel from a nearby tree or structure in a sheltered position.

Resources

- 1 large plastic Bottle
- Scissors
- Garden wire or string
- Twigs, Pinecones, Stones etc.*
- Paint, pens etc. to decorate

*Garden canes can be used, if other materials cannot be found, to provide great shelter for solitary bees.

Important note

Make sure to use materials that can get wet, E.g. paper will start to decompose when wet and therefore not attract insects to the area.