

It can often be hard for young children to visualize animals living in nature, without a house like us. This activity allows children to engage with their surroundings and get a sense of what it might be like to live like an animal.

Instructions

1. Find an area where there is a structure, tree or branch that can be used as a framework for your shelter. Make sure that there is enough clear space on the ground to move around.
2. If needed extend the base structure with a few branches in order to create a space large enough to fit the whole group in.
3. Add more branches along each side of the base structure, leaving an opening at the front for an entrance. Use branches that are long enough to reach from the top of the structure to the ground, at first, in order to create a strong structure, interlocking the branches at the top.
4. Fill in any gaps that may be left with smaller branches in order to create strong walls.
5. Gather leaves or grasses to cover the shelter in, making sure to fill any small holes in the walls or roof. This will make the shelter wind and waterproof, keeping you safe from any elements.
6. Once your shelter is complete try to fit as many people in it as possible and discuss what it might be like to live in it permanently.

Resources

- A suitable area to build your shelter
- Branches or building materials in a variety of sizes

Important note

- Please ensure shelters are **safe** and that any base structures are **strong** enough to hold the weight of the shelter.
- **DO NOT CUT or DAMAGE area when building the shelter. ONLY** use materials found on the ground to limit any disturbance to the area.