

Shelter wildlife

Simple homes: Card matching

Cut out the cards and match each animal to its home and the ways our kind actions help them.



Stumps / Stumpery



Stone pile



Dead hedge



Amphibian hideaway

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Beetles



Zebra jumping spiders



Toads



Hedgehogs

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We need a dark, safe hideaway to sleep safely away from predators during the day.

We breathe and drink through our skin, so we rely on cool, moist places to keep us healthy and hydrated.

We lay eggs in decaying wood, which our babies will eat and use as a home.

We carve tunnels in wood and eventually create a safe space where we can transform into adults and emerge from underground.

We are nocturnal mammals, so we need safe, covered highways to travel between different gardens under the cover of darkness.

We hibernate during the freezing winter months, so we rely on the thick, tangled base of a dead hedge to build a warm, dry winter nest

We are cold-blooded, so we rely on the sun and objects that can warm up to keep our bodies warm.

We are active hunters, so when it is too cold, we rely on small, safe crevices to keep ourselves safe until it is warm enough to hunt again.

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Choose your shelter!

Now it's time to build a shelter for wildlife! Which home would you like to make?

Build a log pile



You will need: Logs, sticks, and branches

1. Find a quiet spot and collect some logs and branches.
2. Stack them together to make a safe hiding place.
3. Check that your pile is steady and won't fall over.

Build a frog hideaway



You will need: A terracotta plant pot and a shady spot

1. Ask an adult to help dig a small hole.
2. Place the pot on its side and cover the edges with soil.
3. Leave it somewhere cool and quiet for toads to discover.

Build a dead hedge



You will need: Sticks, branches, and twigs

1. Push strong sticks into the ground to make two rows.
2. Fill the gap with smaller branches and twigs.
3. Add more sticks and leaves to make a cosy shelter.

Build a stone stack



You will need: Flat stones or rocks

1. Find a sunny spot and collect some flat stones.
2. Carefully stack the stones to make a small tower.
3. Add a large, flat stone on top for insects to warm up on.

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Show your shelter!

Which home did you decide to build? _____

My wildlife home could help: _____

Draw or stick a photo of your finished home below!