



MAKE A BEE HOUSE



The South Downs National Park is home to lots of curious insects like the red mason bee, leaf cutter bees and sand wasps.

Sometimes insects need our help. Follow these instructions to make a home where bees and insects, like the red mason bee, can stay warm and sheltered over winter.

Step 1: Cut off the top of the bottle with some help from an adult.



Step 2: Pack the bamboo canes into your bottle. Make sure the open ends of the bamboo canes face outwards, this is where the bees will live. Use other natural materials (straw, grass, sticks and stones) to pack the bottle tightly.



YOU WILL NEED:

- 1 or 2ltr clean plastic bottle e.g. a fizzy drink or milk bottle.
- A pair of scissors
- Some bamboo canes or sticks cut shorter than the length of your plastic bottle. Ask an adult to saw or cut them for you.
- String
- Straw/grass/sticks/stones (optional)

Step 3: Find a sheltered south-facing sunny spot and hang your bee house at least a metre off the ground. You could hang your bee house from a tree, but make sure the open end is slightly lower to keep out the rain!

Your bees will lay their eggs in your bee house and the larvae will overwinter in the warm and comfy house you've made, ready to emerge next spring!

