

 BUILD A WOODLAND DEN

Did you know that some animals build dens? Dens protect animals from predators and shelter them from the weather. Some build them underground, up trees or in caves.

Now that summer is here, why not build your very own Woodland Den? You don't need to buy anything to build it – all you need are branches, sticks and your imagination! What's more, a Woodland Den is the perfect hiding place to watch wildlife...

 STEP 1

What woodland animal would you be? Find out about your chosen animal and how they build their den. Write down three interesting facts about them.

 STEP 2

Decide where you're going to build your Woodland Den. Look for a sturdy tree with low branches or a Y-shaped fork. This will act as a base and hold your den steady.

 STEP 3

Once you've found a suitable tree, rest a big stick against it. This will be the 'backbone' of your den and will help you build walls.

 STEP 4

Find smaller sticks and lean these against the larger stick to make a wall. Use sticks and leaves to fill the gaps and make the den windproof. You can make one or two walls, but remember to leave a doorway!

 STEP 5

Once you've finished building your den, it's time to make it more comfy. You could sweep inside with a leafy branch, find some logs to sit on, or even name your den and put a sign outside.

 **Extra challenge!**

Use your Woodland Den as a wildlife hide! Stay still and very quiet, and count how many animals you see.