

Build a hibernaculum

Great for amphibians and reptiles!

wildlife
watch

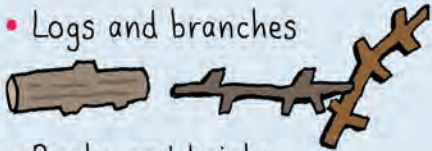


You will need:

- Spade



- Logs and branches



- Rocks and bricks



- 2-3 drainpipe off-cuts or cement pipes



If using plastic drainpipes, roughen the insides with sandpaper so that they are not too slippery for animals to climb

- Turf or meadow flower seeds (optional)



- 1 In a sunny spot, dig a hole about 50cm deep and 1.5 metres across.



- 2 Fill with logs, branches, bricks and rocks, leaving plenty of gaps in between.



- 3 Insert entrance tubes (drainpipes) at ground level into the pile.



- 4 Cover the pile with soil (to about 50cm high).



- 5 You can plant meadow seeds or turf over the mound.



How to build hidey holes

For amphibians

In a damp, cool area of the garden, dig a shallow bowl in the ground and line with sand. Cover with a slab, leaving enough room for an upward sloping tunnel.



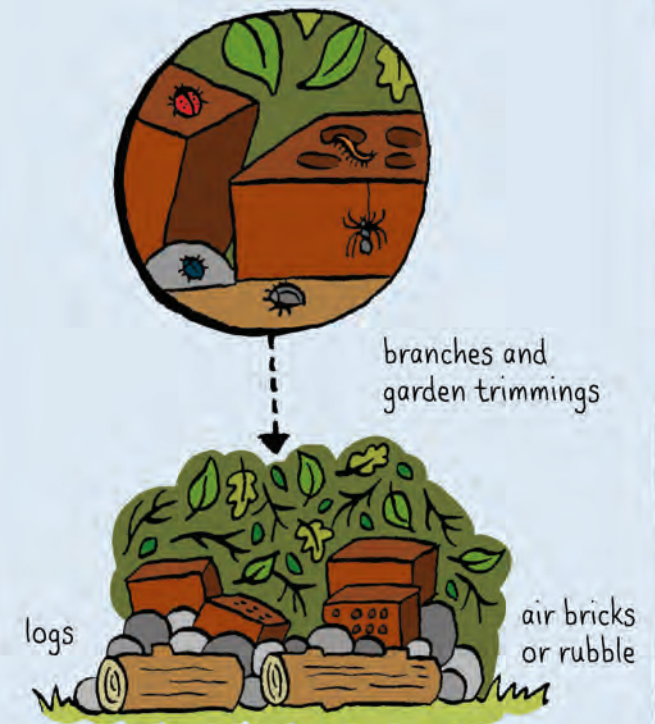
For hedgehogs

Rake a pile of dry leaves in a quiet, unused corner of the garden (under a bush is best). Build a mesh of twigs and branches around the pile, and leave an entrance space at the bottom.



For minibeasts

Stack up a log pile as the bottom layer and cover with rubble or bricks (air bricks have ready made hidey holes!) Cover the pile with branches and garden cuttings.





How to Make an insect hotel



wildlife
watch



the express way!

What you need:



- hollow plant stems, like bamboo canes



- twigs and sticks



- string

- 1 Collect handfuls of stems, twigs and sticks.
- 2 Tie the bundles quite tightly in two places.

- 3 Post into a hedge / bush or hang in a sheltered place.



the deluxe way!

What you need:



- Small logs or untreated timber



- hollow plant stems, like bamboo canes



- twigs and sticks

An adult to help with tools:



- woodsaw



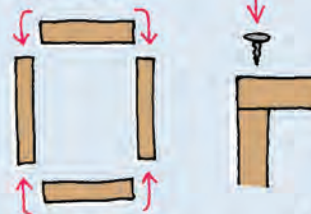
- nails and hammer or screwdriver and wood screws



- drill and 5mm wood bit



- 1 Make a wooden frame, fixing the wood with screws or nails.



- 2 Fill the frame with stems, twigs and sticks.

- 3 Fix a wire loop to the back of the frame and hang somewhere sheltered.



How to build a bumblebee nest

You will need:

- terracotta flower pot



hole in
bottom

- trowel



- dry grass or moss



- sheltered spot that gets some sun



(preferably under a bush)

- 1 Dig a small, shallow hole under a bush.
Your chosen site should not get too hot or too cold, and be in sun for about half of the day.



- 2 Fill the flowerpot with dry grass and/or moss.



- 3 Half-bury the flowerpot upside down in the hole. Position it at an angle so that the hole in the bottom points out.



Grow a bee and butterfly garden

wildlife
watch



Provide for bees and butterflies all year round by planting shrubs and plants that flower at different times.

Spring



Primrose



Garlic mustard



Sweet rocket



Aubretia



Honesty

Summer



Buddleia



Honeysuckle



Lavender



Red valerian



Hebe

Autumn



Ivy



Hyssop



Ice plant



Sweet
scabious



Michaelmas
daisy

Leave your garden wild

wildlife
watch



Take a day off today and do nothing! Leave a wild spot in your garden by not mowing the lawn, or not weeding the paving – nature will love it!





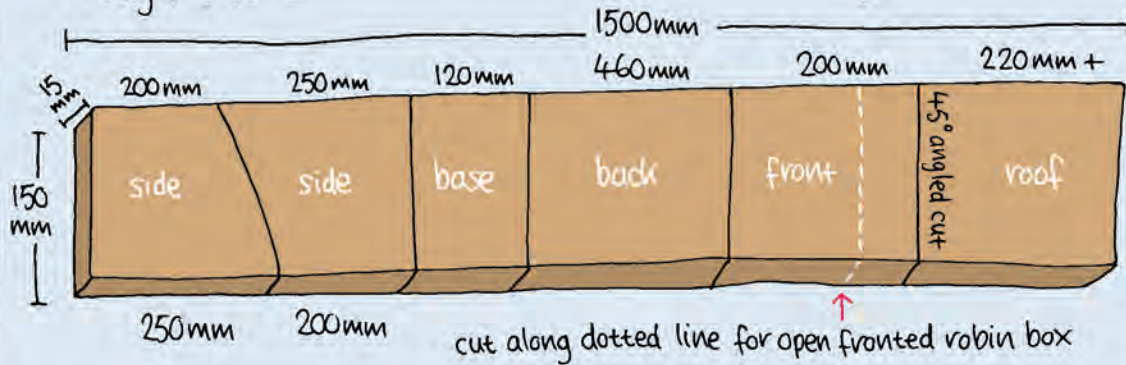
How to make a nest box

wildlife
watch



What you need:

- rough cut timber
- some old rubber or a hinge
- 20mm nails
- tools:



- ▶ saw
- ▶ hammer
- ▶ hand brace or drill
- ▶ pencil, ruler and scissors

always get an adult to help with tools!



1 Mark out and saw panels

Use diagram above, and write the name of each panel onto the marked out wood.

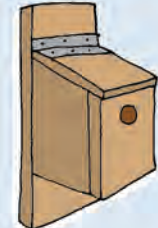
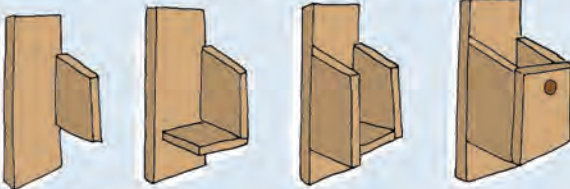
2 Choose your box type



hole fronted box:
blue tits (25mm)
great tits (28mm)
sparrows (38mm)
starlings (45mm)



open fronted box for robins



Fix on the roof panel with a hinge or strip of old rubber.

Where to put it:

2-5 metres above the ground, somewhere sheltered.

2-5m above ground



How to make a bat box

You will need

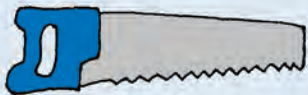
- an adult to help you
- untreated, rough-sawn timber



- tape measure and pencil



- saw

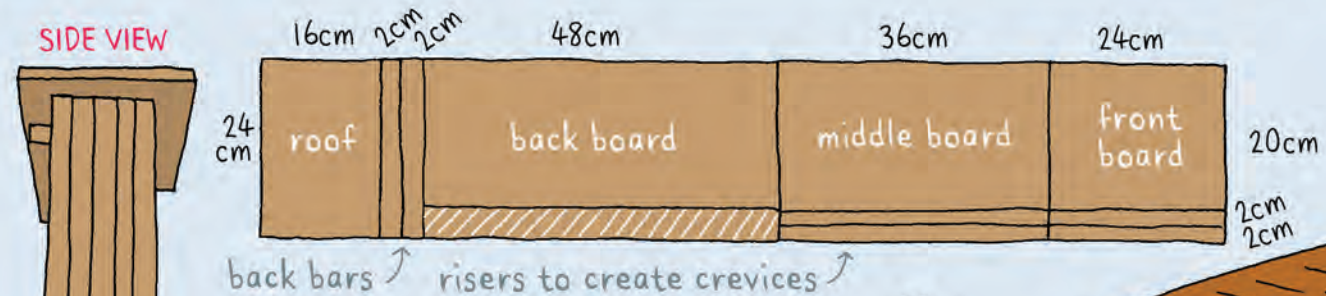


- hammer and nails



Do not use
wood stain or
preservative
on your box

SIDE VIEW



Rainproof
and free from
draughts!

crevice

VIEW LOOKING
UP FROM BASE



Attach
brackets
to bar
bars

FRONT
VIEW

Crevices can be
between 15mm and
25mm but no larger

Clear line
of flight

Fix as high
as possible
in a sheltered,
wind-free
position,
exposed to
the sun for
part of the day.

It is illegal to disturb bats without a license - do not inspect boxes if you think bats are using them. Look for droppings below to check for occupancy.

Make a simple hedgehog house

You will need:

- Medium-sized plastic storage box



- Stanley knife



- Leaf litter



- Dry grass or straw



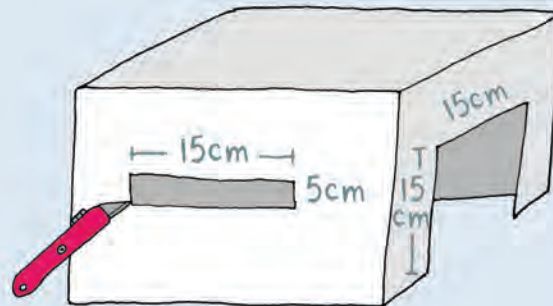
- Carrier bag



- Twigs and dry leaves



- 1 Cut two side air vents and an entrance into the plastic box.

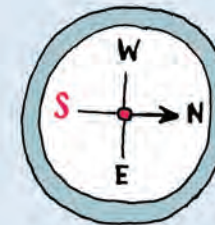
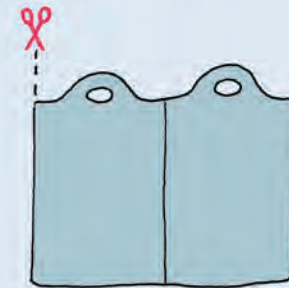


- 2 Put some leaf litter inside the box, with clean, dry grass or straw on top.



- 3 Tuck the box near a hedge (with the entrance facing south if possible).

- 4 Put an opened-up carrier bag over the top of the box, then cover with twigs, dry grass and leaves.



My street tree

Have you ever stopped to have a good look at your nearest garden or street trees? What sort are they? How old? Are they important for wildlife? Do birds roost or nest in them?

You will need:

- Sheet of blank paper and clipboard
- Extra paper and crayons
- Magnifying glass or bug pot
- Minibeast ID chart or book
- Tape measure (optional)
- Leaf spotting sheet or other tree ID chart



- 1 Draw your tree in the middle of your paper. Use a leaf spotting sheet to help identify it.

- 2 Stick a fallen leaf on the paper, or do a rubbing using paper and crayons.

- 3 Use a magnifying glass, pot or pooter to check out the minibeasts living on your tree.

- 4 How thick is its trunk? Can you measure it at chest height with a tape measure? Can you hug it?

- 5 Does your tree have plenty of healthy leaves and soil around its trunk?

- 6 What other wildlife is living in the tree? Put all your findings on your tree drawing.

DATE: 14 July 2014

MY TREE: Oak

LOCATION: outside my house

HEIGHT: half the height of house

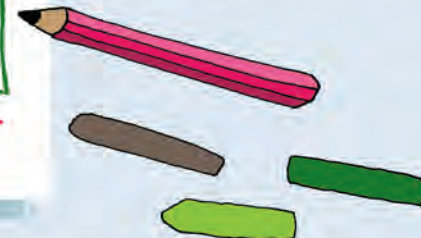


MINIBEASTS:

- 1 green caterpillar
- 2 woodlice
- 2 harvestmen
- lots of aphids
- 2 spiders



VERDICT: I think my tree is healthy



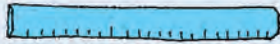
How to make a hedgehog highway

You will need

- A fence panel



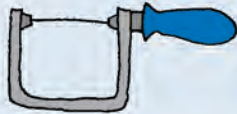
- Ruler



- Pencil



- Coping saw

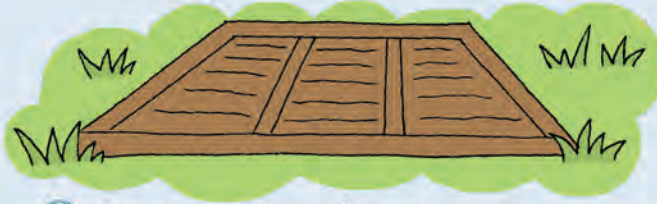


- Sandpaper

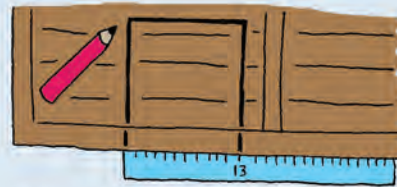


Talk to your neighbour!
It's important to get their consent to cut a hole in the fence – explain that hedgehogs need to move between gardens to access enough food.

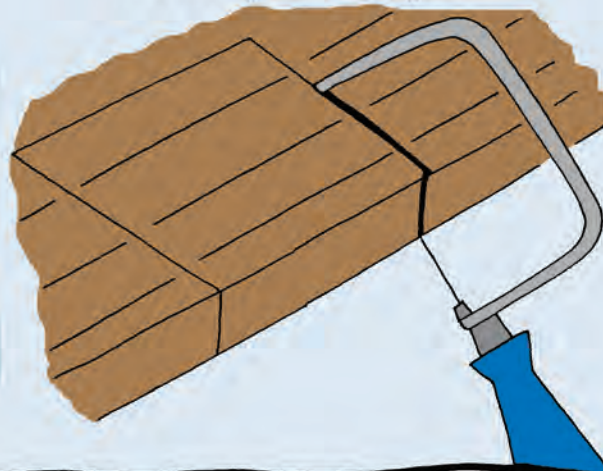
- 1 If your neighbour is happy, remove your fence panel.



- 2 Measure and mark a 13cm x 13cm hole at the bottom of the panel.



- 3 Ask an adult to help you cut the hole using the coping saw.

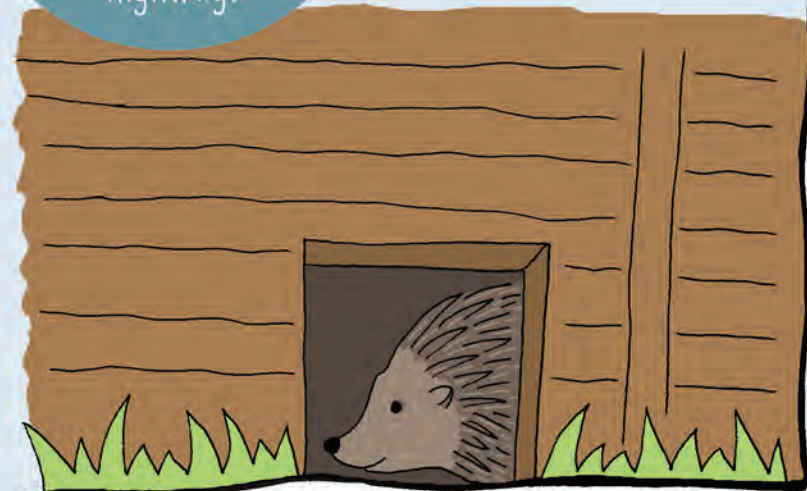


- 4 If there are any very rough edges, use the sand paper to smooth them down.



- 5 Put your fence panel back. Your hedgehog highway is now open for business!

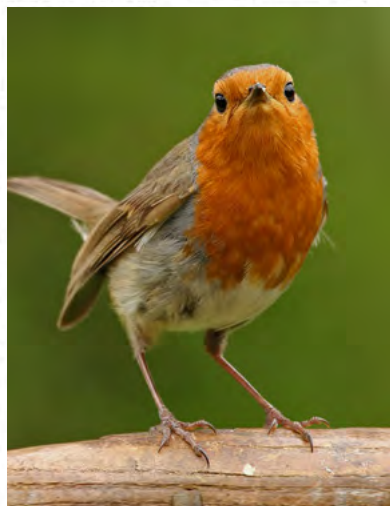
You could set up your own trail cam to watch and see if any animals are using your highway.



Winter garden wildlife



**wildlife
watch**



Robin



Garden snail



Holly



Starling



Snowdrops



Ivy



Blue tit



Song thrush



Teasel



Blackbird

Christmas card wildlife



wildlife
watch



Robin



Grey seal pup



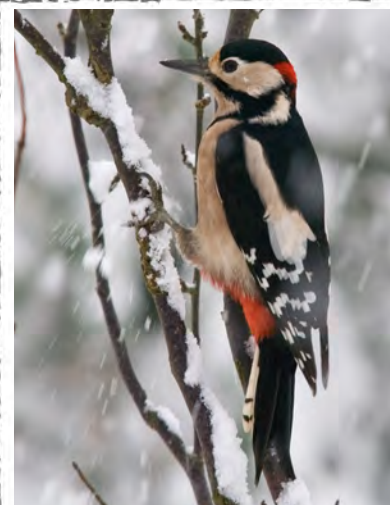
Great tit



Goldfinch



Brown hare



Great spotted woodpecker



Chaffinch



Fieldfare



Blue tit



Red deer

Winter nuts and berries



Wildlife
Watch



Yew berries



Acorns



Ivy berries



Conkers



Rose hips



Beech nuts



Holly berries



Crab apples



Rowan berries



Hawthorn berries

Minibeast detective



wildlife
watch



Cricket



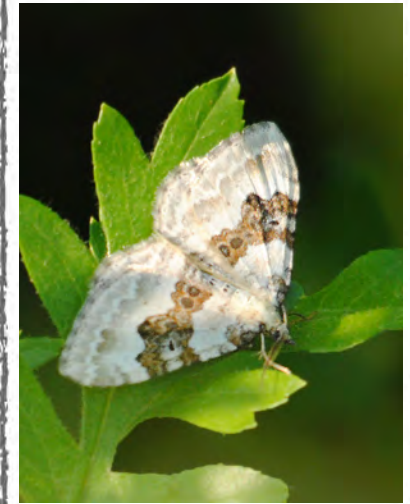
Harvestman



Woodlouse



Lacewing



Moth



Nettle Weevil



Millipede



Bluebottle fly



Slug



Bumblebee

Bee detective



wildlife
watch



Buff-tailed bumblebee



Early bumblebee



Garden bumblebee



Red-tailed bumblebee



White-tailed bumblebee



Common carder bee



Tawny mining bee



Hairy-footed flower bee



Leaf-cutter bee



Honey bee



Garden butterflies



wildlife
watch



Peacock



Brimstone



Comma



Orange-tip



Green-veined white



Holly blue



Small tortoiseshell



Painted lady



Red admiral



Small white



Garden bird detective



wildlife
watch



Chaffinch



Greenfinch



House sparrow



Blackbird



Blue tit



Goldfinch



Great tit



Collared dove



Starling



Wood pigeon