

CREATE YOUR OWN BUG HOTEL

Purpose: To create a bug hotel to protect local pollinating insects.

Background Information: Similar to other animals, pollinating insects need places to rest and seek shelter. Some insects seek refuge under leaves and rocks, some hide in tree hollows or tree bark, and others prefer burrowing into the ground. In order to give our local pollinators a place to rest, we will create a small hotel for bugs to take shelter in.

Materials:

- Wooden frames
- Sticks, leaves, and pinecones
- Bamboo segments
- Gloves/smocks
- Wood glue
- Paintbrushes
- Water cup
- Wax paper
- Paint palettes



Set Up:

- Choose a workspace with enough room to work comfortably.
- Pour glue into the paint palettes. Bug hotel creators will use paintbrushes to paint glue onto their projects.

Instructions:

- Place a sheet of wax paper underneath your wooden frame while constructing your hotel and leave it there until the glue has dried.
- Fill your frame with bamboo pieces, sticks, and leaves, securing each element with wood glue. Let your creativity guide you as you imagine what a tiny bug's hotel might look like!
- Find a safe spot to allow your Bug Hotel to dry completely.
- Once dry, position your Bug Hotel outside near plants like bushes, flowers, or trees, where bugs can easily discover it as they become active in the spring.

Wrap-up:

- What kinds of bugs do you hope your hotel attracts?
- Bugs play a crucial role in our ecosystems, and like all animals, they need shelter to survive and thrive in the wild. Thank you for doing your part to protect them!