

Blue Peter Make your own bug mansion



☰ You will need

- ✓ Planks of wood
- ✓ Bricks
- ✓ Twigs, leaves, grass, bamboo, old drinks bottles - whatever you have unused in the house as long there are no chemicals
- ✓ **Tip-** You can be as creative as you like with this one. All you need is some planks of wood, a few bricks to hold it up and then you fill it with twigs, leaves, grass and all kinds of materials that you have lying around your house.

Introduction

Make your own bug mansion to attract all sorts of creepy crawlies into your garden. Don't forget to take a picture and send it to us at bluepeter@bbc.co.uk

Instructions

Step 1



First you need to select a good location. Find a spot in the garden to build your minibeast mansion. A sheltered position in the sun or semi-shade will be best

for most insects and a flat surface will make building easier. You can use anything from bricks, slate, bamboo, leaves, twigs, mud, old fabric, old drinks bottles - whatever you like. Just remember to check with an adult the items you are using.

Step 2



Next you need to build the foundation. This will be the bottom of your Bug Mansion. You can use whatever materials you like but untreated wood is the best. We used an old chest of draws.

Step 3



Try to use a variety of 'fillings' in your mansion as different insects will have different needs. Straw, leaves and garden cuttings make good packing material and a mix of pots, twigs and bamboos will create nooks and crannies for insects to shelter in.

Step 4



Finally, make sure your mansion is as snug as possible, that the roof is rain-proof. You could also plant from insect friendly plants near by to help attract and encourage the insects.

Step 5



Now all you need to do is sit back and wait to see what kind bugs decide to move in. Don't forget to use our bug spotter sheet to help you identify your new guests.



SAFE SPOTTING!

Remember to tell an adult where you're going and ask a parent or guardian to come with you if you go out spotting after dark. Spot those animals and keep safe!

Wildlife Spotter

Spot as many animals or birds as you can, then add any extra wildlife you spot to the second page by drawing what you see and making your own notes.



Spotted: Hedgehog

Notes: About 20cm long and covered in brown spikes. Lives in gardens and parks. Hedgehogs protect themselves from predators by rolling into a spiky ball.



Spotted: Red Fox

Notes: The size of a small dog, with distinctive red-brown fur and a white chest. Found in towns, cities, parks and woodland. While they may look like dogs, not all foxes bark. The females let out a loud scream!



Spotted: Fallow Deer

Notes: A large mammal with chestnut coloured fur and white flashes on it's sides. Mostly found in woodland and parkland, but can stray into towns and cities. Only the male deer (called bucks) have antlers, while females (doe) have none.



Spotted: Redwing Thrush

Notes: About 20cm long with a brown back and red patches under the wings. Found in woodland, farmland and gardens. Redwings can often be seen feeding on berries in the same areas as starlings.



Spotted: Tawny Owl

Notes: About the size of a pigeon, with brown or grey feathers on it's back. It's underside is usually white. Tawny owls are nocturnal, so they hunt at night - dropping from a perch onto unsuspecting prey.



Spotted: Starling

Notes: A small bird about 20cm long, with black and white speckled feathers. Found in towns, parks and farmland. Starlings flock in huge 'clouds' which move together, wheeling and swooping as a group.



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