

Find the Shape

Instructions

How to Make your own Den



Have you ever dreamed of making your own hidden hideaway?
Or, helping friends to make a snugly shelter to sit and watch the birds?
Let me tell you how to make a delightful den that will protect you from the wind and rain?



You will need:

- A strong tree, wall or post.
- A couple of large branches or pole for support
(Don't break off any living branches or damage trees).
- 10 -20 medium branches
- A collection of smaller branches, twigs, leaves and grass to cover your den. (Don't worry if there are no fallen leaves, use a plastic sheet or tarpaulin, instead)
- Small logs for seats
- A selection of twigs, leaves, fallen flowers and/or pine cones for decoration.



Are you ready to build?



1. Find a firm space next to a strong tree with lots of nooks, crannies and knobbly bits. Alternatively, use a wall for support.
2. Wedge a couple of large branches firmly against the tree to make a frame. Make sure the branches are secure as you don't want them to slip.
3. Build your walls by resting more branches against the framework. Make sure you pack them tightly and securely.
4. Once your den is stable, use smaller branches, twigs and leaves to cover it. Push them into gaps so that your den shelters you from the wintry gusts and the drizzle. You can even secure them with mud!
5. Now make it homely. Decorate your den with dried flowers and coloured leaves. Design a small garden using twigs, pebbles and pine cones.
6. Give your den a name, forming the letters from small pebbles or twigs.
7. Finally, arrange some small logs for seats and get cosy in your woodland home.



Why not enjoy a mug of hot chocolate with gooey marshmallows while you share a story or watch the world?

Key:



Heading



Hook



Question



What you need



Steps