



HABITAT HELPER TOOLKIT



Once your Club identifies the animals that need mini habitats, you can choose the habitats you'd like to build from the list below (Building plans on the following pages). You can also try out your own mini habitat ideas!

Habitat Name	Suitable For	Materials Required
Bird Nest Supply Shop	Birds	Outdoor items - twigs, hay, leaves, feathers, moss, pine needles, etc.
Toad-ally Awesome Toad House	Toads	Small shovel or trowel, ceramic flower pot or plastic container
Pile up for Nature	Insects, chipmunks, mice	Woodchips, logs, flower pots, sticks, leaves
Creepy Crawler Cottage	Insects	Planter, dish, wildflower seeds
Best Butterfly Snack Bar in Town	Butterflies	Paper plate and string, or old plate and base (like a flower pot), bananas, brown sugar
Bee's Knees Bumblebee Nest	Bumblebees	Ceramic flower pot with hole in the bottom, trowel, wood shavings or hay, plate, rocks
Bird-tastic Birdbath	Birds	Shallow bowl or garbage can lid, small and large rocks, something to use as a base
Ladybug Lair	Ladybugs	Large water bottle, twigs, scissors, corrugated cardboard

The Best Butterfly Snack Bar in Town



HOW TO MAKE THIS:

For a temporary Butterfly Snack Bar, follow the instructions on the left. If you want something that will last longer, follow the instructions on the right.

ONE-TIME USE OPTION

1 Punch 3 holes around the edge of a paper plate. Spread them evenly so your plate will hang nice and flat.

2 Tie a piece of string to each one of the holes.

3 Tie the strings together with a knot at the top and hang it outside. Pick somewhere close to flowers.

4 When your Butterfly Treat mixture has cooled, spoon some onto the plate.

5 Add some cut fruit or fresh flowers to the plate. This will help attract butterflies (optional).

6 Wait for the butterflies to arrive!

RAINFOOF OPTION

1 Make sure the plate is clean.

2 Attach the plate to a base (optional).

3 Place the plate and base outside in the garden or close to flowers.

What you need:

- ☐ An adult to help
- ☐ Butterfly Treats (see recipe below)
- ☐ Something to put the treats on:
 - One-time use option: A paper plate and three pieces of string
 - Rainproof option: an old plate or lid (the more colourful, the better), and a base to put it on
- ☐ Somewhere to hang or place your Butterfly Snack Bar
- ☐ Pieces of ripe fruit like apples, oranges, strawberries and watermelon (optional)
- ☐ Fresh flowers (optional)

Butterfly Treat Recipe

Recipe Ingredients

- ☐ 1 Ripe Banana
- ☐ 1/2 Cup Dark Brown Sugar
- ☐ 1 Cup Water



Ask an adult to help you with this recipe.

Instructions

Mash up the banana. Put it into a saucepan and add the rest of the ingredients. Bring the mixture to a gentle simmer, making sure to stir every couple of minutes. When the mixture becomes sticky, but still runny, remove it from the heat and let it cool.



Toad-ally Awesome Toad House

HOW TO MAKE THIS:

1 Find a good spot in your garden for your toad house. You can also try this in a pot or a planter if it's low enough for the toads to jump into. Look for somewhere that's moist and has lots of bugs.

2 Dig a hole that's deep enough to cover about half of your pot when it's on its side.

3 Place the sideways pot in the hole and fill it halfway with the dirt you just dug up. Not only will this keep the pot in place, it will also give the toad somewhere to dig and help make it comfortable when it's in its house.



What you need:

- ☐ An adult to help
- ☐ A garden trowel or small shovel
- ☐ An object for the house, like a ceramic flower pot, coffee tin, or deep plastic container

! Use a container you already have instead of buying a new one

! A ceramic flower pot will provide the best protection against the mid-day heat.



Fun in the sun!

Bird-tastic Bird Bath



HOW TO MAKE THIS:

- 1** Put a layer of small stones in the bottom of a shallow bowl and add a few larger stones or shells for the birds to stand on.
- 2** Pick a spot for your bird bath that's close to a bush or tree, and has somewhere to hang the shower.
- 3** Place your bird bath on a pedestal in your chosen spot and fill it with water. You want the water to be only 5 cm (or 2 inches) deep at the deepest part.
- 4** Ask an adult to help you make the Bird Bath Shower by following the instructions on the right side of the page.
- 5** Clean your bird bath every few weeks to make sure the water is fresh and bacteria don't grow on it.



What you need:

- ☐ An adult to help
- ☐ A shallow bowl, trashcan lid or old pan for your bird bath
- ☐ A log, upside-down planter or garbage can to keep your bird bath off the ground
- ☐ Small stones
- ☐ A few larger stones or shells
- ☐ Bird Bath Shower (see instructions below)

! Birds are fascinated by the sight and sound of dripping water, so adding a shower will make your bird bath more attractive.

Bird Bath Shower

Materials

- ☐ A clear plastic bottle
- ☐ A push pin
- ☐ String

! Use a container you already have instead of buying a new one

Instructions

Have an adult make about 5 small holes in the bottom of the bottle using a push pin. Tie a string around the top of the bottle and hang it above the bird bath. Fill the bottle with water and screw on the lid. The water should slowly drip from the bottom. Refill as needed.

Ladybug Lair

HOW TO MAKE THIS:

- 1 Have an adult cut the top off a clear plastic bottle so that it's a cylinder with one closed end.
- 2 Cut the cardboard into a rectangle. It should be as long as the bottle and wide enough to wrap around the inside of the bottle a few times.
- 3 Roll up the cardboard so it fits in the bottle. If you have a hard time bending it, try removing the layers of flat cardboard (so only the ridges remain).
- 4 Put the roll into the bottle. It should expand a little, leaving a space in the middle.
- 5 Place the sticks in the open space, making sure some of them stick out of the bottle so the lady bugs have a place to land.
- 6 Put the bottle in a bush or other sheltered place. Angle the opening slightly downward so that rain doesn't get in.

What you need:

- ☐ An adult to help
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ A clear plastic bottle
- ☐ Thin sticks that are longer than the bottle
- ☐ A large piece of corrugated cardboard

Use a container you already have instead of buying a new one

Corrugated cardboard is the kind with ridges, like what you find in a pizza box.



Bird Nest Supply Shop

HOW TO MAKE THIS:

- 1 Put the nesting materials in shallow bowls. You can skip this step if you choose to leave the materials in piles instead.
- 2 Place the nesting materials outside in a spot that's easy for birds to see. You'll want to make sure it's sheltered from the wind so the nesting materials won't blow away.
- 3 Keep an eye on the nesting materials from a distance to see which birds stop by, and see if you can spot any new nests in your backyard!



What you need:

- ☐ An adult to help
- ☐ Nest-building materials (see list below)
- ☐ A shallow bowl or open container for each material (optional)

HERE'S WHAT WE USED:



Dry Grass



Twigs



Wood Chips



Dry Cedar Leaves



Dry Leaves

Nest Building Supplies

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry twigs | <input type="checkbox"/> Bark strips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry leaves | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine needles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry grass | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet hair that hasn't had flea or tick treatments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feathers | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood chips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cattail fluff | <input type="checkbox"/> Mud |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cotton | <input type="checkbox"/> Straw or hay |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moss | |



Bee's Knees Bumblebee Nest

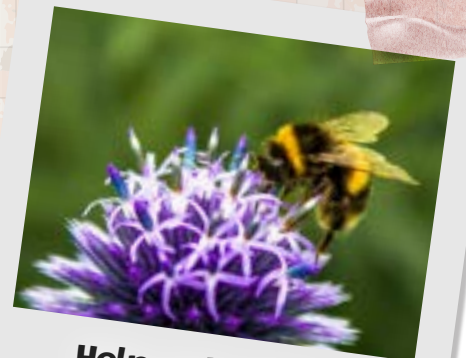
HOW TO MAKE THIS:

- 1** Dig a hole in the ground that's deep enough to fit an entire flower pot when it's upside-down.
- 2** Sprinkle hay or wood shavings in the hole. This will help attract the queen bee.
- 3** Put the upside-down flower pot in the hole, making sure that little to none of it is sticking out of the top.
- 4** Next, protect it from the rain by putting rocks on the ground around the pot and placing the cover on top. You'll want to make sure you choose rocks that are tall enough so that there's space between the cover and the top of the pot for the queen to get in through the drainage hole.
- 5** Once your Bee's Knees Bumblebee Nest is in place, make sure you leave it alone. If bumblebees feel threatened, they could become aggressive.



What you need:

- ☐ An adult to help
- ☐ A ceramic flower pot with a hole in the bottom
- ☐ A trowel or small shovel
- ☐ Hay or wood shavings
- ☐ A cover to protect the pot from rain, like a piece of wood, a plate or a patio stone
- ☐ Rocks



Help out a bee
in need!

Creepy Crawler Cottage



HOW TO MAKE THIS:

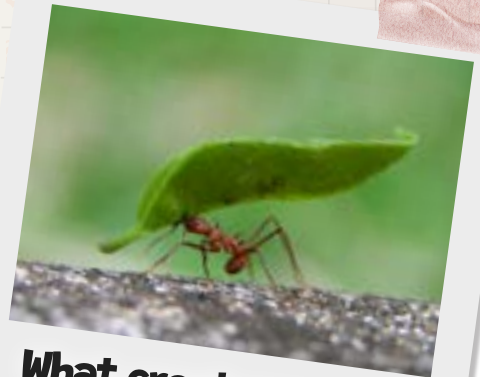
- 1 Plant the plants in a sunny spot in your garden or in a planter.
- 2 Add a dish of water so tiny creatures can drink or bathe. Make sure the dish is in the shade so it doesn't get too hot.
- 3 Water the plants and refill the water dish whenever it needs it.
- 4 Keep an eye on your mini nature reserve to see what types of insects come to visit.



What you need:

- ☐ An adult to help
- ☐ A planter (optional)
- ☐ A small dish of water
- ☐ Native plants

! Choose plants of different heights to attract helpful insects and provide shelter.



What creatures will you discover?

Pile Up for nature



HOW TO MAKE THIS:

- 1 Pick a spot for your log pile. Look for somewhere out of the way and against a wall or fence.
- 2 Figure out how big you want your log pile to be and put down a layer of wood chips.
- 3 Start to arrange the logs. You can choose to have some lying down and others standing up, but make sure the standing ones can't fall over.
- 4 Add some secret hiding places by placing bricks, rocks, flower pots and pipes around the logs
- 5 Place sticks and leaves in piles around the logs.



What you need:

- ☐ An adult to help
- ☐ Wood chips
- ☐ Logs
- ☐ Objects for insects to hide in and crawl through, like bricks, stones, flower pots, or pipes
- ☐ Sticks and leaves



**Who will come
to visit?**