

# Den BUILDING

Build yourself a cosy den – the perfect base camp for you and your friends to hide in when you plan your next outdoor adventure.

Don't forget your torch and some snacks!



This activity card was written by Lucy Kivell, 8 years old from North Devon, as part of an RHS and BBC Blue Peter competition

## Plan your den

Dens can be built in a wood, in a field or in your back garden and are great places to watch nature from – you could take a notebook with you and write down or draw pictures of all the animals and insects that you see.

Here are two ways you can build your den depending on where you are.

## Equipment needed

- ❑ Sticks of different lengths, some need to be quite big
- ❑ Big leaves and moss to cover your shelter – ferns or bracken work well

## OR

- ❑ A rope or thick string
- ❑ An old sheet or blanket
- ❑ Clothes pegs or large stones

## Let's make your den!

### Den 1: using sticks and leaves

1. Lean large sticks against a tree trunk in a wigwam shape – a trunk with twigs sticking out makes it easier to lean the sticks against. Build up the den using layers of sticks until it is nice and strong.
2. Cover your den in dry leaves, moss and anything else that is lying on the ground. Be as creative as you can!

### Den 2: using rope and a sheet/blanket

1. Tie the rope between two trees, keeping it nice and tight – maybe a grown-up can help you. Don't tie it too high up or your blanket might not reach the ground.
2. Throw your blanket or sheet over the rope and use the pegs or big stones to hold the bottom in place in a triangular tunnel shape.

Now go enjoy your den!



These activity cards are part of the collaboration between HRH The Duchess of Cambridge, the RHS and Davies White with the RHS Back to Nature Gardens at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival and RHS Garden Wisley in Surrey.

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