



Building a bug hotel – a home for wild bees

AT A GLANCE



Place

Outdoors or in a workshop



Key idea

Building a nesting aid for wild bees and discovering God's call to look after creation



Effort

Materials 20 min · Preparation 30 min



90 minutes



teams of 3–4



8–12 years



for wild bees



Materials

- ☐ for each team a small wooden box with a roof (untreated) or an empty tin can without sharp edges
- ☐ blocks of hardwood (e.g. beech, ash, oak), pre-drilled by a leader: holes 3–8 mm wide, 5–10 cm deep, drilled into the side grain
- ☐ hollow plant stems (bamboo, reed), cut to the depth of the box with secateurs
- ☐ sandpaper, string or wire for fixing
- ☐ picture or fact cards about wild bees



Schedule

0–15'

Introduction – Show pictures: who lives in a bug hotel? Wild bees are mostly peaceful and important for flowers and fruit.

15–30'

Preparing – Cut the stems and sand drill holes and cut edges smooth, so the bees do not damage their wings.

30–65'

Building – Pack the wooden blocks and stems tightly into the box until nothing wobbles. Open ends face forward.

65–75'

Hanging it up – Find a sunny spot sheltered from rain (facing south or south-east) and fix the hotel firmly.

75–90'

Devotion – Genesis 2:15: God gives people the task of working his garden and taking care of it. Small creatures are part of that too.



Building a bug hotel – a home for wild bees

How it works – simply explained

- 1 Explain why the holes must be smooth: splinters injure the delicate wings.
- 2 Each team sands its blocks and stems until they feel smooth.
- 3 Stems and blocks are packed into the box so tightly that nothing falls out.
- 4 Look for a good spot together: sunny, dry, not wobbly.
- 5 Check in spring: are some tubes sealed with mud? Then someone lives there!

 **Example:** “Can you see the tube that is sealed with mud? Behind it a young bee is growing. We have helped God build a home for it.”

Safety

- Only a leader drills and saws, wearing safety glasses; children work with sandpaper and secateurs under supervision.
- Ask beforehand about allergies to insect stings; anyone affected must have their emergency kit to hand.
- Fix the hotel firmly so that it does not fall down in the wind.

Variations

- Also sow wild flowers so that the bees find food nearby.
- Keep an observation diary: who moves in, and when are the tubes sealed?

Something to think about

What can you do to look after God’s creation?