



BUTTERFLY creek™

BUILD AN INSECT HOUSE

Objective: To learn about different insect habitats and what they need to survive and to create an insect house to encourage insects into our area.

Quick info:

Creating an insect house is a great project to combine art and creativity into your insect learning unit. Insect houses can be made in groups or individually and it is recommended that you create one prior to starting the unit so you can demonstrate how you created one and pull it apart with the students to see the types of insects you can attract.



Resources:

- Wooden boxes (e.g. shoe boxes, food cartons etc)
- Natural items insects would like (pine cones, leaves, sticks etc)
- Glue (e.g. Hot glue gun)
- Art materials (coloured paper, scissors etc)

Time: approximately 1 hour. More time will be needed to plan and gather resources.

Activity:

1. Discuss what we have learnt about insects habitats so far - where they like to live, what they need to survive (water, food, shelter) etc.
2. Discuss why it is important to have insects in your garden (they maintain the ecosystem, they eat other insects that can harm your vegetation or soil, can break down and provide nutrients for your soil) etc.
3. Ask students what people do in their gardens to get rid of insects (insecticide spraying, habitat loss etc
4. Ask students what we could do to encourage more insects into our gardens around school and our homes. Discuss the concept of making insect houses. Brainstorm ideas of what we would need to include in a insect house. If you have a pre-prepared insect house - show this to students and discuss your process in making it
5. Students create their own insect houses using boxes and natural materials they have brought in from home
6. When houses are complete, hang them around a suitable location in the school. After a few weeks, pull them apart to discover how many insects they attracted.