

Bottle mansions



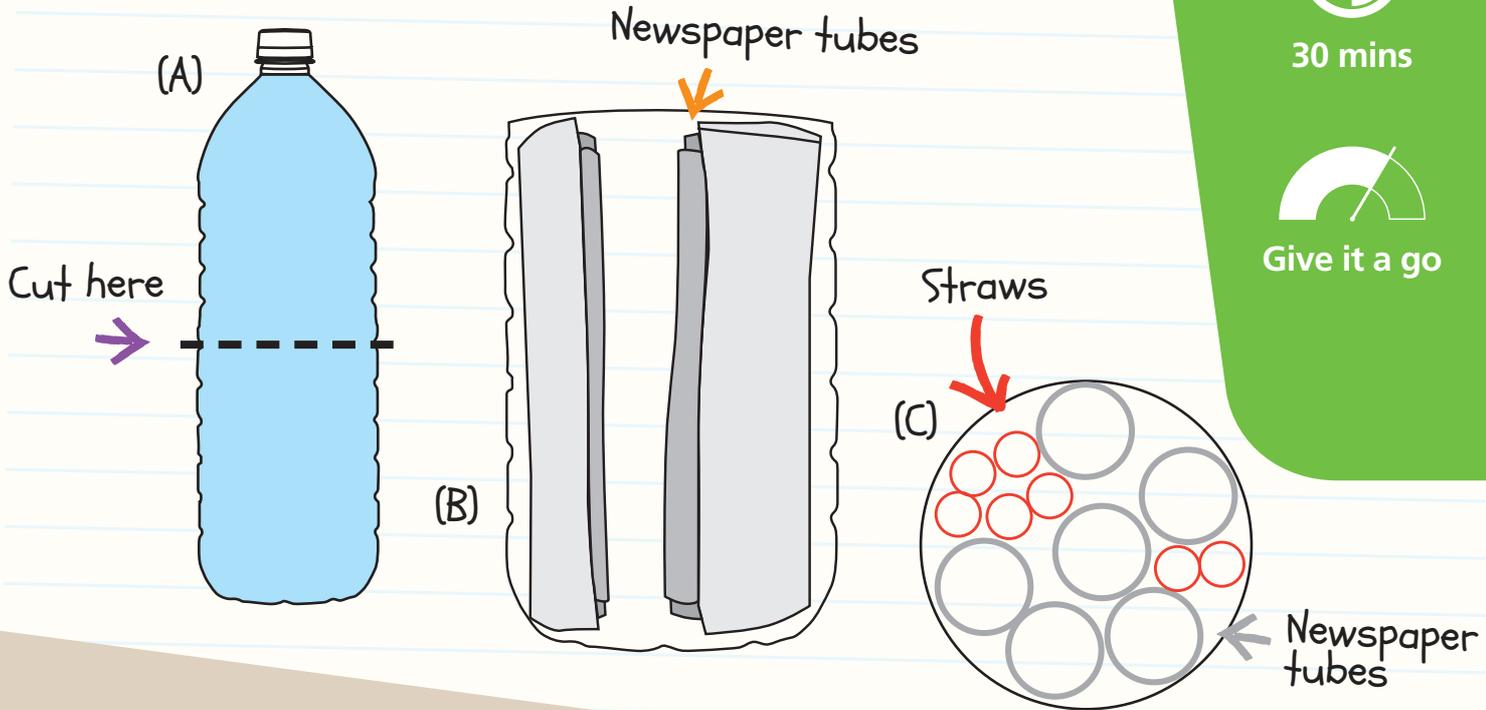
Exploring nature



30 mins



Give it a go



Aim of activity

Make a mansion fit for a queen (bee)! Recycle a plastic bottle by filling it with materials to help hibernating minibeasts. Make them feel snug as a bug!

What you'll get out of it

- Care for wildlife.
- Recycle old items for new purposes.

What you'll need

- A clean, small plastic bottle (70cl approx) per girl
- Scissors, 1 pair per girl
- A pack of plastic drinking straws
- Newspaper
- Sticky tape to share among the group



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding



Get creative by using a plastic bottle to make a minibeast mansion. Your finished creation could become a winter home for ladybirds, beetles or bees.

What to do

1 Start as a group and think about what kinds of minibeasts you have seen in your local area, for instance snails, butterflies, worms, beetles, ants.

What kind of places do they like to live in? Suggestions: flower beds, under rocks.

2 Now, each get a plastic bottle and cut it across the middle (ask a leader if you need help) so the bottle is cut in half like in picture A.

3 Take some newspaper and roll the sheets into tubes. Make sure they aren't too tight by checking you can still fit your finger down them. Once you have rolled a tube, secure it with a little bit of tape to stop it unrolling. You should repeat this until you have around five to ten tubes.

4 Put your tubes into your bottle until it's about three-quarters full like in picture B. Make some more if you need to.

5 If your tubes are longer than the bottle, cut off any extra paper sticking out so that they are all level with the bottle.

6 Fill in any gaps by poking straws between the newspaper tubes. Again, trim the ends off so they're level with the bottle. There should be no empty spaces left in the bottle, like in picture C.

7 You've finished! Now your bottle is a waterproof shelter that will give minibeasts somewhere to stay warm and hidden.

8 Come back together as a group and show each other your minibeast houses. Where might yours go? You could tie a piece of string to the bottle and hang it up, or find a good spot on the ground – different places attract different creatures. Talk about good places to put them, and decide where you're going to put yours!

Take it further

Monitor your bottle mansion and report back to your unit. Which one has had the most visitors?