



A43 Building a wildlife habitat



Encouraging plenty of wildlife is crucial in an organic garden to create a natural balance of predators and pests. In this way, no one pest gets out of control and plants remain healthy in an active and diverse ecosystem. Encouraging beneficial wildlife needs a range of habitats for food and shelter. This activity shows you how to build exciting habitats of your own design.

Resources

A range of natural materials, eg stems from flowering plants, sticks/twigs, branches, rotting logs, old pallets, straw, bamboo canes, decomposing leaves, etc.

Activity

- 1 Choose a suitable location for your habitat/s. It should be in a sheltered corner, but not isolated from the rest of the garden/other habitats.
- 2 Design your habitat with a range of features and materials to create different areas, eg damp and dry places, small areas to creep into, larger cavities, etc.

Extended activity

Link your habitats together in 'wildlife corridors', eg long grass, compost heaps, ponds, borders with wildflowers, hedgerows, shrubby areas, etc.



Habitat in among silver birch trees with cavity at base for overwintering hedgehogs.



A modest, but effective design near a native hedgerow at the back of the garden.



Multistory catering for all manner of creatures, built at Clifton-Upon-Dunsmore CofE Primary School.

Health & Safety	Be careful of scratches handling natural products, washing hands afterwards. See also <i>Health and Safety Guidelines (Section SG1.2)</i>
Further information	B5.11 Attracting wildlife S4.7 Creating habitats for wildlife