

## Bug tower block - leader's notes

### **Background**

In this activity children will learn what type of places different invertebrates – including insects and in particular beetles and spiders – live in.

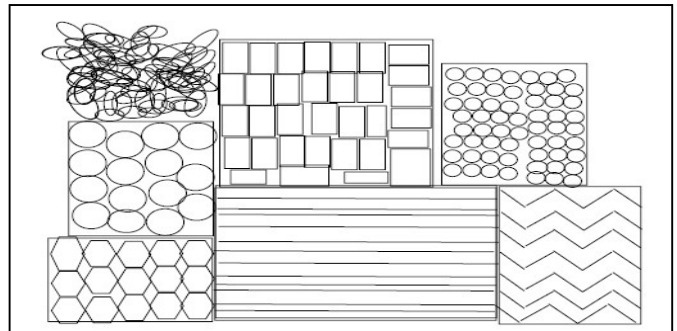
### **Materials needed**

Bricks, flat bits of wood, logs, twigs, leaves, bamboo canes, pebbles  
A quiet corner of the school grounds to build the tower block in.

### **Running the activity**

Ask the children to gather leaves, pebbles, twigs from around the school grounds. The teacher will need to arrange several bricks, old pallets or pieces of plywood, bamboo canes cut to about 30cm.

Put down four bricks to form the base of your beetle tower block and lay a pallet or sheet of plywood on top. Fill the gaps underneath with leaves or canes or densely packed twigs. On top of the plywood or pallet put another four bricks in each corner and repeat the process. Use whatever materials the children can find. The class can build one large tower block or several smaller ones in different parts of the grounds using different materials.



### **Extension activities**

If several tower blocks have been created check them regularly to see what different creatures prefer what types of material to hide and feed in. Try creating block stacks and see if different creatures use the tower block. If you are lucky you may get frogs, newts, hedgehogs, mice and voles using the ground floor of the tower if they are around.

### **Essential information**

**Age range:** Key Stage 1 and 2

**Time needed:** 1 hour to build the beetle tower block. Allow time for gathering material.

**Curriculum links:** Science-

KS1 and KS2: Working scientifically  
Year 1: Animals, including humans  
Years 2-6: Living things and their habitats  
Evolution and inheritance

Setting: Outside in school grounds