

Houston Zoo at Home

BUG HOUSE

Make Your Own Bug

3-10 years old.

One thing that bugs are amazing at is camouflage. Stick bugs can be right in front of your face and you would never know it! See if you can create your own camouflaged bug from natural things you've collected outside.

What to Do: Take a walk or search your backyard and look for natural items to complete your bug.

Materials Needed: Natural items such as sticks, leaves, moss balls or hanging moss, wood chips, gravel, flowers, pinecones, acorns, etc. You can also use other items such as pipe cleaners, other embellishments, and glue.

Build a Pollinator Palace

Families of All Ages

Goal is to create small spaces where solitary bees and other beneficial insects can make a home. Can be made using whatever you have on hand and as big or small as you'd like. This example uses a tin can & computer paper

Supplies: empty tin can, paint, string/ribbon, computer paper, scissors

Instructions:

1. Rinse out a tin can with soap and water and remove any wrapper from the outside
2. Paint or decorate your can with a design of your choosing
3. Wrap string around outside of the can at top and bottom so it hangs horizontally
4. Roll sheets of computer paper into tight circles and fill can; trim paper as needed
5. Hang outside in a planter or garden and check periodically to see if your pollinator palace has any visitors!

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.

Night Insect Survey

Families of All Ages

- Goal is to see the variety of insects active at night
- Can use any available light source
- This example uses a flashlight and white sheet
- Supplies: string and/or clips to hang sheet, white sheet, flashlight

Instructions:

1. At dusk hang a large white sheet outside. This can be on a fence, side of the house, on a tree, or even draped over a bush or balcony.
2. At night fall, shine your light on the sheet. The more powerful the light, the more of the sheet it will illuminate, and the more insects will be attracted.
3. Wait and see who comes to visit! Moths will likely arrive first, then you'll probably see other types of insects too. Use a magnifying glass to get a closer look and appreciate bugs in all their beauty!

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