

Kids Science@ the Library



Create a Mason Bee House

You'll need:

- A dry empty water bottle or something similar
- A permanent marker, pencil, ruler
- Scissors and scotch tape
- Some paper – paper from paper bags works well

1. Measure 7 ½ inches up from the bottom of the bottle and make a small mark with your permanent marker. If you like, draw an overhang to help protect the house from water. With the help of an adult, cut off the top of the bottle along this line.

2. Cut the paper into about 7 inch by 7 inch squares – they don't have to be exact. You'll want about 20 pieces for a water bottle sized mason bee house.

3. Roll each piece of paper around your pencil to create a tube. Tape the tube so it won't uncoil. Fold over and tape the end of each tube to provide a 'back wall.'

4. Fill your bottle with the paper rolls. They should fit snugly. Decorate your mason bee house with recyclable items if you like.

5. Find a sheltered spot in your yard for your mason bee house. It should be protected from rain and snow, about six feet off the ground, and face south, if possible.

About Mason Bees:

Mason bees gather nectar and pollen into tubes, such as hollow twigs or holes made by insects, lay an egg, and seal it with mud. They'll fill the tube with more nectar, pollen and eggs. The eggs hatch into larvae, and eat the pollen and nectar. Then they form a pupa and eventually develop into adult mason bees. They stay in their home, hibernating through winter, and emerge in the spring, ready to repeat the process