



# design & make a shelter

Taster

## 1 Prepare

**What kind of animals live in the forest?**  
Mice, foxes, snakes, badgers, squirrels.

**Where do they make their homes?**  
Many are underground, some are up in trees, some live on the ground and make homes in undergrowth.

**What do all animal homes have in common?**  
They all need to be warm, dry and safe.

You could explore the forest looking for animal homes and discussing how and where they have been made.



## 3 Evaluate and Improve

Which shelter would be best at keeping an animal warm, dry and safe, and why?

Try more specific design criteria:

- Give the children a cuddly toy which has to be able to live in the shelter;
- Using the small shelter as a prototype, re-make it much larger, so that it is big enough for the children to get into (you can test it for 'waterproof-ness' by throwing water over it at the end).

## 2 Plan and make

Which animal is the shelter going to be for?

What are you going to do to make it warm, dry and safe?

How are you going to make it?

- sticks leant up against a tree?
- a pile of logs covered with fallen leaves?
- sticks and leaves placed in the fork between two branches?



This is just a taster,  
the full Early Years  
Teachers Pack is free  
to download from...

[forestry.gov.uk/earlyyears](http://forestry.gov.uk/earlyyears)