



Mini Shelter Building



The Task

Build Mini Den's from natural materials, using skill, creativity and imagination.

How?

- Select and travel to an appropriate venue.
- Brief the pupils on safety, organisation and responsibilities.
- Introduce and start the task.
- Build your dens and have fun.
- Review and evaluate each others work.
- Discuss lessons learned and ways to improve the experience.

Considerations

- Front load the task with research on design and material technologies.
- Plan and sketch possible designs.
- Consider the environmental impacts of the activity and designs.
- Consider creating an activity context (Emergency Shelter, Social housing, Sustainability..?)

What will you need?

Area with plenty of natural materials for den building e.g. grass, twigs, mud, stones leaves etc.





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Organisation & Layout

- Work in teams to create the mini dens.
- Use research and develop design criteria to inform the design so that products that are fit for purpose, aimed at particular individuals or groups.
- Use a wide range of materials, textiles and components according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities to select construction materials from.

Learning Objectives

- Practice teamwork, cooperation and communication skills.
- Enjoy being and working outside.
- How and where to forage for good natural material.
- Gain an understanding of how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce more complex structures.
- Gain an understanding of the design process with reference to STEM subjects.

Safety Information

- Select a safe, easily supervised area with access to the required raw materials for the task.
- Set clear rules and boundaries for the Group. More controls will be needed if using a public areas.
- Ensure good sight lines and have a call back system.
- Consider hygiene and sharp objects when clearing up.

Review & Assessment

- Work in teams to create, present and peer review mini dens.
- Evaluate their ideas and products against their own design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work.
- Apply their new learning to another design project or task to reinforce knowledge and encourage transferability of skills.



Additional Links & Support

[Blairvadach Mini Shelter Building - Youtube](#)