



Shelter Building

Use your imagination to create a structure that can be used for whatever you want it to be.

Make sure you build your fort in a safe space, either in a wildlife sanctuary's Nature Play Area (massaudubon.org/natureplayareas) or along a trail. Where ever you build, be sure to leave everything the way you found it!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Sticks
- Leaves
- Anything else you want!

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Locate** a flat open area for your shelter. A sturdy tree is often helpful to use as the base for the shelter. You can use your own backyard or a safe place in the woods. The most important part of shelter building is using your imagination. Keep in mind to stay away from poison ivy and prickly shrubs (briars).
2. **Collect** your building materials. Try to keep sticks to a manageable size to assure you're being safe. Keep the green things in the ground! Use already fallen limbs and sticks. You can always collect more if you need them.
3. **Build** your shelter. A common formula to follow is to have a sturdy base (a tree or other solid feature) and lean the sticks against that to build the walls. There's no wrong way to make a shelter so have fun with it!
4. **Leave no trace.** Once you're done with your shelter please dismantle it and return all the natural materials back to where you got them.

