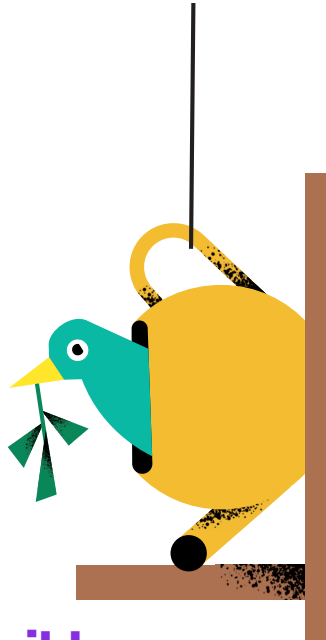


# Community birdhouses

Choose your birdhouse and build a new home for our feathered friends.



**Time** | 3hr

**Cost** | £

**Location** | Indoors/  
Outdoors

**Group size** | Everyone

## You will need

- Stepladder
- Specific equipment for your chosen birdhouse (Wooden, log, juice carton or teapot)

### Juice carton birdhouse

- 1 litre juice carton
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Hammer and nails (to mount the birdhouse)

### Teapot birdhouse

- Second-hand teapot
- Sheet of wood
- Wood saw
- Hot glue
- Hammer and nails (to mount the birdhouse)

### Log birdhouse

- Logs
- Drill
- Chisel
- Mallet
- Wood saw
- Hammer
- Nails
- Small strips of wood (around 15cm by 5cm)

### Wooden birdhouse

- Plank of wood
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Saw
- Nails
- Hammer
- Drill
- Screws

## Learning outcomes

### Value the outdoors

Enjoy being outside, feel comfortable in nature, and feel connected to the natural environment.

### Develop skills

Gain a range of practical and modern skills for school, work, and your social life.

## Birdwatch walk

Time	Activity	Guidance	Equipment
10 mins	1. Everyone should try to remember what biodiversity means.	You might remember that WWF talk about biodiversity as the 'magic ingredient that enables the world to work smoothly'. People could talk about how different plants and animals work together in an environment.	
	2. The person leading the activity should choose one of the example ecosystems from Web of life (insert link once uploaded).		
	3. Everyone should name as many plants and animals in that ecosystem as they can. Can they name one thing they might eat or be eaten by?		

## Chat about biodiversity

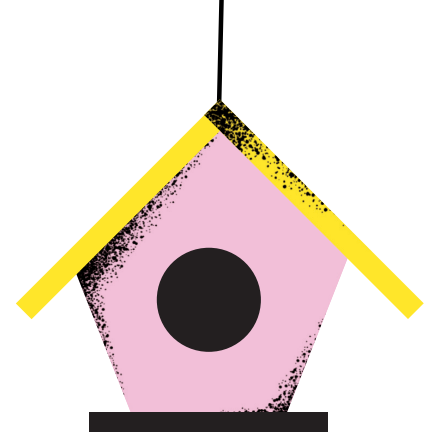
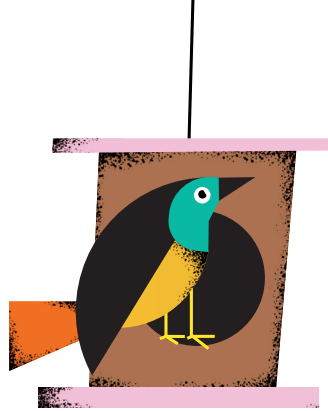
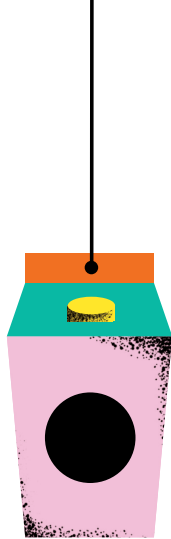
Time	Activity	Equipment
45 mins	Choose somewhere to go for a walk in your local area. How many different birds can you spot? Are there any birdhouses or can you see any nests? Are there any good spots to put your birdhouses?	

## Build your bird houses

There are lots of different ways to make great birdhouses depending on the materials and space you have available. Choose from one of the options to build your very own.

### Juice carton birdhouse

Time	Activity	Guidance	Equipment
5 mins	1. Get a one litre juice carton, open the top, and clean and dry it thoroughly.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 litre juice carton</li> </ul>
10 mins	2. Use scissors to puncture the carton and cut a 3–4cm hole on the front, around 10–12cm from the bottom.	Use something like an apple or potato behind the carton when you puncture it to catch the scissors and keep your fingers clear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scissors</li> </ul>
15 mins	3. Decorate the carton however you like. Camouflaging it into the environment it's going to be in can help keep the birds safe.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craft materials (optional)</li> </ul>
10 mins	4. To mount your birdhouse, reach inside the open top open and nail it to its final spot.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hammer and nails</li> </ul>
	5. Sealing up the top with tape.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sticky tape</li> </ul>



## Teapot birdhouse

Time	Activity	Equipment
5 mins	1. Get a second-hand teapot and clean it really well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second-hand teapot</li> </ul>
10 mins	2. Cut out a sheet of wood so it is around 10cm larger than the teapot on all sides.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sheet of wood</li> <li>Wood saw</li> </ul>
10 mins	3. Glue the base of the teapot to the wood so when the wood is stood up the teapot is vertical on the board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hot glue</li> </ul>
5 mins	4. To mount the birdhouse, just nail through the board into the spot where you want the birdhouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hammer and nails</li> </ul>

## Log birdhouse

Time	Activity	Equipment
20 mins	1. Choose a dry log to hollow out and be your birdhouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Logs</li> </ul>
15 mins	2. Cut two discs, around two centimetres thick, from the log to be the top and bottom of the birdhouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wood saw</li> </ul>
	3. Cut the remaining log to the final height of your birdhouse.	
15 mins	4. Hollow out the log, leaving the walls around two centimetres thick. Do this by drilling lots of holes through the log and chipping the wood out with mallet and chisel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drill</li> <li>Chisel</li> <li>Mallet</li> </ul>
5 mins	5. Drill a 3–4cm hole on one side of the log, around 10–12cm from the bottom.	
10 mins	6. Attach the bottom of the birdhouse back to the log with a few nails. Be careful and put them in the right place so they don't stick into the birdhouse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hammer</li> <li>Nails</li> </ul>
10 mins	7. To mount your birdhouse, attach a small strip of wood, around the size of a 15cm ruler, to the back of the birdhouse at 90 degrees to the log with a couple of nails. Then use this strip of wood to mount the birdhouse in your chosen spot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small strips of wood</li> </ul>

## Wooden birdhouse

If you're up for a challenge, try crafting a wooden birdhouse. To do this accurately you'll need some great instructions, complete with measurements and diagrams. We recommend using the RSPB's 'Build a bird box' guide.

## Make a house a home

Time	Activity	Guidance	Equipment
10 mins	1. Once everyone's built their fantastic new birdhouses, they should head back out to where they want to place them and choose a spot between two and four metres above the ground on a tree, wall, or fence.	It's best if your bird house faces roughly north east to avoid the strongest sun and rain (unless there are trees or building to shade it). Make sure that the area in front of the house is clear for the birds to fly in.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birdhouse</li> <li>Stepladder</li> </ul>
	2. Everyone should mount their birdhouses as described in the instructions.	If you need to use a stepladder, make sure it's secure and supported by someone on the ground, and make sure that you're supervised by a responsible adult.	

## Bird watching

Time	Activity	Guidance	Equipment
20 mins	1. After a few weeks, everyone should head back out to their birdhouses.	Don't get too close to the birdhouses or disturb them as you might scare off the feathered tenants.	
	2. Everyone should quietly wait and watch to see if anyone's moved into their creations.		

## Adjustments

### Change the level of the challenge

- Choose which birdhouse design you'll make carefully as some are much easier than others.
- You could also buy one or two birdhouses for people to decorate and place, instead of making them.

## Reflection

Time	Activity
5 mins	This activity helped people to take a look around their natural environment and see what they can do to help the local birds. Why do birds need people's help? As people build more and more buildings and roads, they get rid of more of the birds' natural habitats – it's important that people do what they can to help the birds. What else can people do to help support their local environment and wildlife?

## Take it further

Quietly and carefully revisit your birdhouse every few weeks to see what you can spot. Take a note (or photos) of any birds you spot. Can you identify what type of birds they are?

## Safety

All activities must be safely managed. Use the safety checklist to help you plan and risk assess your activity. Do a risk assessment and take appropriate steps to reduce risk. Always get approval for the activity and have suitable supervision and an InTouch process.

### Sharp objects

Teach young people how to use sharp objects safely. Supervise them appropriately throughout. Store all sharp objects securely, out of the reach of young people.

### Hand and electric tools

- Inspect tools for any damage before each use. An adult should supervise people using tools, and people should follow instructions on how to use them correctly and safely. Tools should be properly maintained and kept sharp.
- Use an appropriate surface and make sure materials are stable and supported when you're working on them. You should cut and drill away from the body and in an area clear of other people.
- Be extra cautious of trailing cables and water when using electric tools; use a cordless tool if one's available.

### Scissors

Supervise young people appropriately when they're using scissors. Store all sharp objects securely, out of the reach of young people.

### Hot tools

- Tools such as irons and glue guns produce a lot of heat. Never touch the hot metal parts. Use them under adult supervision and on a suitable surface, protecting it if necessary.
- Don't leave hot tools unattended and be careful near combustible materials such as wood, textiles, or paper. Make sure there's a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit (with items to treat burns) nearby.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper use. You may need to use gloves and safety goggles with glue guns.

