

# Build a Shelter

A **habitat** is a place where an animal or plant naturally lives and grows, and includes both living and nonliving things an organism needs to survive. A **shelter** is one (nonliving) component of a habitat that helps protect an animal from bad weather or danger.

## First, gather your supplies:

- Sticks and logs
- Bark
- Leaves
- Anything you can find in your backyard



## Directions:

1. Find a spot in your backyard to create your shelter!
2. Collect nearby sticks, bark, and leaves.
3. Think about the different things you would need to survive in the wild. Protection from the rain? A soft place to sleep?
4. Use a large branch as the center support and lean smaller branches against it to build the walls. This type of shelter is called a lean-to.
5. Add leaves or moss to the inside to add extra cushion.
6. Layer leaves or bark on the outside walls to protect yourself from the rain.
7. Remember to leave no trace! When you are done with your shelter, break it down and return your supplies to where you found them. They are part of the habitat!



# Build an Indoor Shelter

## First, gather your supplies:

- Blankets
- Pillows
- Sheet or large towel
- Something to be the base of your shelter: chair, table, couch



## Optional Supplies

- Water or snacks

## Directions:

1. Drape your towel or sheet over the back or side of a chair or couch to build the main part of your shelter.
2. Lay a blanket down inside to add cushion.
3. Add pillows and extra blankets inside the shelter to stay warm and cozy!
4. Bring snacks, water and your favorite activity into your shelter to stay busy! Think about all the different types of shelters other animals build to stay warm and cozy during the day or at night.
5. (Optional) How could you make a shelter that would help you camouflage in your habitat?

