



MAKE A HOUSE FOR BOB TO NEST IN.




Materials:

- Half gallon milk/juice carton
- Scissors
- Pencil
- 25-35 pieces of 8 ½ by 11-inch copy paper (Re-using paper that is printed on one side is a great idea.)
- Tape (transparent, masking)
- Permanent markers or color crayons
- Twigs
- Optional: stapler instead of tape for tube ends; printed duct tape for decoration and bird netting bee protection; rubber band to bind tubes




Directions for paper tubes:

- 1) Cut pieces of paper in half 
- 2) Place a pencil on the 5 ½ edge of the paper and roll the paper TIGHTLY around it. Don't let go.
- 3) While holding the paper in place, pull the pencil out. Don't let go of the paper!
- 4) Still holding the paper tube, put it on the table and tap down the end so paper is even.
- 5) Still holding on, tape across the edge of the paper in 3 spots. Start in the middle, then top and bottom.
- 6) Squish one end flat and staple it closed; or tape it closed securely covering the flat part.
- 7) Make up to 70 tubes, but stop whenever you think you have enough to mostly fill the carton.
- 8) Color a little on the ends a few tubes. This helps females find THEIR nest easier among all the others.



Directions for nest box:

- 9) Cut off the folded end of the milk carton, so you have a nice square opening. 
- 10) Optional: decorate the outside with patterned duct tape.
- 11) Fill the carton opening with the nesting tubes you made. Gently tap or push them to the back of the carton. The empty space in the front will help keep rain from blowing in. Bundling them loosely helps.
- 12) Add sticks in between the tubes. This helps bees identify THEIR own nest from all the others.
- 13) Find a secure place to put your bee house—sunny, warm, dry, and protected from wind. [See the STEM challenge on the next page.](#)

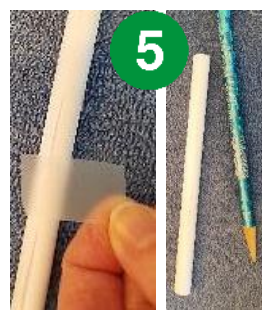
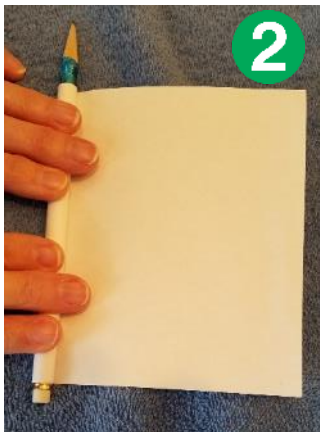


Photo directions continued on next page



STEM CHALLENGE



Where should you put your bee house and how will you secure it? Here are the ideal recommendations. Accomplish as many as you can.

- Secure your bee house, so it doesn't move or swing in the breeze, a sturdy wall or fence work well.
- Keep it out of the rain, like under the eaves of a house or under a board-like roof.
- Find a place where the opening is in the sun; facing southeast or south is best.
- Make sure there are flowers in bloom within 300 feet of the nest (think football field).
- If possible, dig a small hole in soil, add water and to create mud for the bee's chamber making.
- Be sure there is water nearby to drink.
- Place it at eye-level so you can see all the bee action.



[Blue Orchard Bee \(usu.edu\)](#)

- Protect it from birds by placing small dimension chicken wire or bird netting over the opening.



LET THE FUN BEGIN.



Watch the bees come and go from your bee house. Take pictures. Observe which flowers they seem to like. Are flowers white, yellow, or blue? Are they flat or tube shaped? Watch for bees in mud holes or carrying mud to the nest. Go to this website [Mason Bees are the Super Pollinators of Spring \(crownbees.com\)](#) to find out more about mason bees. After you read this link, click the other mason bee links listed on the right: 4.2 through 4.6. That should give you all the information you need for keeping your bees safe throughout the rest of the year.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SOME FREE MATERIAL VISIT THESE WEBSITES.

- For a planting guide, ecoregional guides and garden tips got to [Garden Cards | Pollinator.org](#)
- For answers to bee hair, wings and more questions try [Ask Dr. Universe | Washington State University \(wsu.edu\)](#)
- For a solitary bee 17 minute documentary movie on solitary bees (caution: shows mating bees and a spider attacking a bee) [The Solitary Bees on Vimeo](#)
- For a 10-page scientific paper on BOBs and their cousins try [Megachilid Bees in the Pacific Northwest: An Introduction \(oregonstate.edu\)](#)
- Print a poster from [The Power of Pollination \(beefriendlytrust.org\)](#)
- Print a coloring page from [Bees in your backyard: Native Bee coloring page](#)
- Play a jeopardy-like game here [The Pollinator Game \(usda.gov\)](#)
- Order a free pollinator seed packet here [Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board](#)
- Adults, please read the USDA document stressing the importance of protecting bees [Attractiveness of Agricultural Crops to Pollinating Bees for the Collection of Nectar and/or Pollen, 2015 \(usda.gov\)](#)

