

Mason Bee Homes



Objective: The students will make a home for mason bees.

Materials:

- Medium size aluminum can at least 5" deep
- Toilet paper roll
- Sheets of paper
- Gorilla glue (or similar strong glue)
- Pencil
- Tape
- Paint or permanent markers to decorate cans (optional)
- Toilet paper roll

Introduction:

Not all bees live together in hives. Mason bees are solitary by nature. Females usually live alone and handle all the work themselves. They typically make their homes in natural holes, cracks, and crevices.

Mason bees are smaller than honey bees, and are black or metallic blue-green in color. They tend to be friendlier than some honey bees and rarely sting. But even though these bees are smaller, they are powerful pollinators! This makes them a perfect addition to your garden.



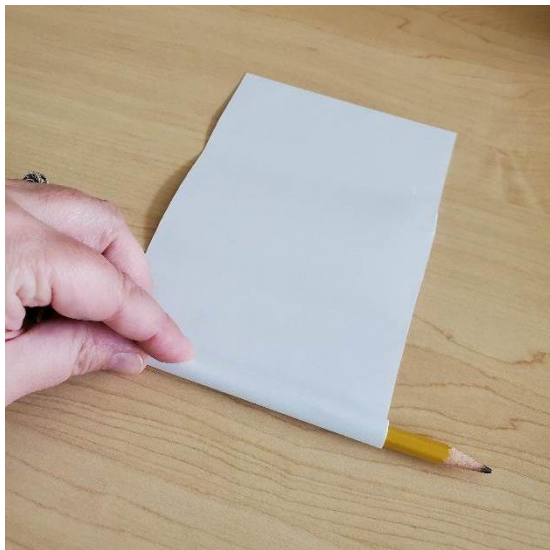
Process:

- Clean the can and remove the label on the outside.
- Paint or color the outside of the can, if you want. You can make any design, or you can leave it plain.
- Measure the length of your can.
- Cut the paper and the toilet paper roll just a little bit shorter than the length of the can. You want it to fit inside the can without sticking out the front of it.
- Next you will create your paper cells. Using your pencil, roll the paper tightly as possible around the pencil and fasten with two pieces of tape.
- Slide the paper roll off the pencil and set aside.
- Repeat until you have enough to fill the can.
- Apply a thin layer of glue at the bottom of the can.
- You can place toilet paper rolls and sticks inside the can. This will help act as an orientation tool for the bees. Then fill the rest with the paper cells.
- Now you can place your new Mason Bee Home outside! Find an open sunny spot about 3 feet from the ground. Make sure it is secure so the wind does not blow it over.

Mason Bee Homes



Roll the paper tightly around a pencil.
Secure the two pieces of tape.



Place the toilet paper roll and
paper cells inside the can.

Your Mason Bee Home is
ready to hang outside!

