

Bee Tunnel Nest Activity

Materials Needed

- Water bottles with the top cut off (water bottles should be 5-8 inches in length after top has been cut off)
- Parchment paper cut 5"- 8" (wide) x 4"- 6" (long) strips
- Wooden dowels varying in sizes from 3/32 to 3/8 inch in diameter
- Tape



Procedure

Step 1: Use the Xerces Society fact sheet to help explain the importance of providing nesting sites for native tunnel nesting bees.

Step 2: Using the wooden dowels, roll each strip of parchment paper into an individual paper tube. Make tubes of each diameter. Tape the tubes so they stay rolled.

Step 3: Fold or tape one end of the tube closed. Leave one end of the tube open.

Step 4: Place the rolled parchment paper tubes into the water bottle completely filling the bottle with a bundle of tubes (open end of the parchment paper tubes should be facing out). You should make sure to include different diameters of tubes in each bottle.

Step 5 (Optional): Have the students paint the outside of the water bottle. Students can get as creative as they want with designs and colors, but black and brown are the best colors to attract bees to your nest.

Step 6: Install your tunnel nest in a desired location. Be sure to locate the nesting tube where it is protected from direct rain and faces south or southeast so it is warmed by the morning sun. Nest should also be placed so that tubes are horizontal to the ground or pointing slightly downward. It is preferred to place the tunnel nest on a firm support 2 to 6 feet above the ground. However, if a desired location above ground cannot be found, the nest can also be placed on the ground. Nest can be placed in a preferred location anytime during the month of February. If you are allowing the students to take their nesting structures home, tape tunnel nest directions to the water bottle so students will know how to install their nesting structures.

Tunnel Bee Nest Directions

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