

# Bee Nesting Block Activity

## Materials Needed

- Untreated 4"x4" lumber cut into 12" lengths with a beveled top
- Untreated 1"x6" lumber cut into 6" lengths
- Electric Drill
- Drill Bits (1/4", 5/16", & 1/16")
- 2 Screws (1 1/2" length)
- 4 Screws (1/2" length)
- L Bracket



## 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:** Use the 1/4" or 5/16" bit to drill holes throughout one side of the 4"x4". Holes should be 3/4" apart and be drilled as deep as possible without going through the other side of the 4"x4".

**Step 3:** Use the 1/16" drill bit to drill two pilot holes in top of 1"x6"x6" piece of lumber. Screw the 1"x6"x6" piece to the top of the 4"x4". Make sure the back of the 1"x6"x6" is flush with the back of the nesting block.

**Step 4:** Screw the L bracket to the back of the nesting block and to the top of the nesting block.

**Step 5:** (Optional): Have the students paint the outside of the nesting block. 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 nesting block.

**Step 6:** Install your nesting block in a desired location. Be sure to locate the nest block where it is protected from direct rain and faces south or southeast so it is warmed by the morning sun. It is preferred to place the tunnel nest on a firm support 2 to 6 feet above the ground (top of a fence post). 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, make sure students get a copy of the nesting block directions so students will know how to install their nesting structures.

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