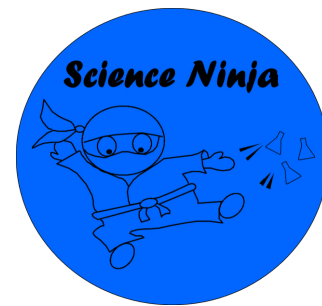




101 SIMPLE SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

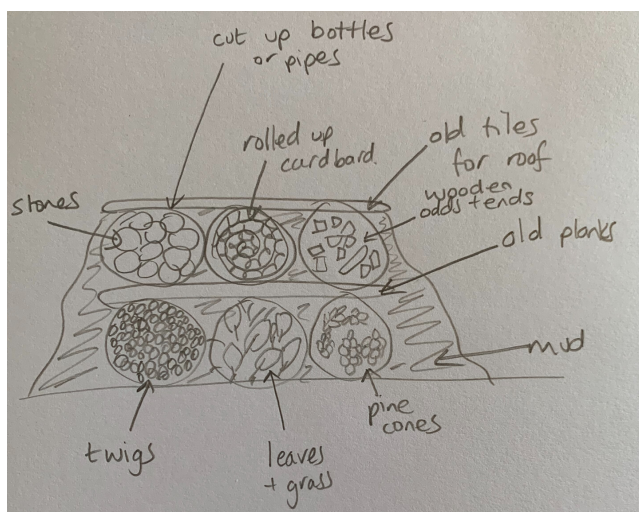
with



BRILLIANT BUG HOTELS

You will need:

- a selection of materials (like in the pictures above)
- stones or broken tiles are useful
- leaves, twigs, grass cuttings, pine cones, old pipes and tubes, cardboard, old plastic bottles
- water, soil (to make mud)
- scissors, pens, paper



Insects and other minibeasts need safe spaces for their habitat. They need to shelter, hide from predators and they also need places to raise their young. You can help them by building a bug hotel in your garden or yard. An example is above.

It can be as simple or as fancy as you like and depends on your imagination and the materials you can find to use - so take your time with this stage.

KEY VOCABULARY

habitat	shelter	warm
natural	insects	beetles
bees	larvae	

METHOD

First collect together some natural materials either from your garden or in your home.

Next look at what you have available and try to design a bug hotel - try drawing and labelling your design to help you when you build it. You could use old plastic bottles with the top and bottom cut off and stuff the cylinders with materials to keep the bugs toasty and warm.

Remember it will need to provide a warm, cosy and dry place for your minibeasts so don't forget to include a roof - old slate or tiles are good for this job.

You could even have fun making mud walls for it with soil and water.

Once you are happy with your design find a place in your yard or garden that your grown up is happy with to build your hotel. It's best that it's in a shady part of the garden - although close to flowers is good too.

Carefully build your hotel in layers. Think about what conditions the bugs might like:

- Creepy crawlies like beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice like dead wood and loose bark.
- Ladybirds (they eat aphids - like greenfly) and other beetles and bugs like dry leaves, sticks or straw.
- Lacewings like corrugated cardboard (their larvae eat aphids, too).
- Butterflies and bees like to be near flowers that produce lots of nectar.
- Snails, slugs and worms like it to be cold and damp.

Once you have built your bug hotel you can visit it and see what has moved in, be careful though you don't want to scare the bugs away - you will seem like a giant to them.

Now why don't you record what you find in your hotel in a table and draw some pictures.

Why not send some photos of your designs, your hotel and your work to us via our facebook page or email atomsvonni@gmail.com. We are always happy to see your hard work and can share it with other children.

ACTIVITY TIME: 1 HOUR TO DESIGN AND BUILD - THEN ONGOING