

Shelter Building

Purpose: The purpose of this activity is to help students recognize that all animals need shelter and then allow students time to design a shelter for a small plastic figurine.

Group size: 2-10 students per adult leader

Activity length: up to 20 minutes

Procedure:

- In a large group, brainstorm with students what all living things need to survive:
 - Air
 - Water
 - Food
 - Shelter
- Discuss reasons that people and animals need shelter
 - From elements (heat, cold, precipitation)
 - From danger
 - Protect young
- Students may work alone or in pairs.
- Spread out in designated area, and divide up the shelter building materials and plastic figurines.
- Students will be working to create a shelter for their figurine. This can be a 2D or 3D structure.
- As students build, adult leaders should walk around the groups and ask students questions about their shelters related to the initial discussion.
- At the end of the rotation, give students time to share their shelter design with others if they wish.
- Be sure to gather all materials and put back into carrying boxes

“Meat and Potatoes” Synopsis

Introduce concept of what living things need to survive and provide discussion as needed.

Work as a group with natural materials to build a structure/shelter, sharing ideas on design and relating back to protection & comfort topics.