



## How To Build A Den

Building a den is always a good idea. It doesn't matter if you are lost in the woods or just want to have some fun. Lots of animals build dens to keep themselves safe. Birds build nests, beavers build dams and bees build a hive. These instructions will help you to build a strong and secure den with things you can find lying around. Remember to ask for permission before moving things around the house or classroom, and if something is heavy or tricky, ask an adult to help!

### You will need:

- Something to cover your den with. It could be a blanket, a sheet or a tarpaulin.
- A support to hold the cover up in the air. You might need to find some big sticks if you are in the woods. Ask somebody big and strong to help you if they are heavy. You could use chairs or a table if you are at home.
- Heavy things to hold the cover down at the edges. Stones or logs are great for this. You could also use some of your heavy toys. Just don't use your baby sister!
- A piece of paper to make a "Keep Out" sign.

### How to make your den:

You need to make sure that your den is safe for you to use. Your first step is to build the support. You do this by placing the chairs or sticks firmly on a flat piece of ground.

### RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Write down one thing that your cover could be made from.
2. What does it suggest your sign could say?
3. What might you feel if your cover isn't secure?
4. Fine two examples of animals who build dens.
5. What could you use as a support if you are at home?

Ensure that they aren't going to fall over. You might need to tie the sticks to a tree with some string.

Next, you will need to place your cover over your support. This is a lot easier with two people so you can ask a friend to help. Hopefully, your cover will reach the ground on all sides. You will definitely feel a breeze if there are any gaps.

Your cover needs to be held in place. Take the heavy things that you collected and place them on the edges of the cover. Don't forget to leave a door to get in and out!

Finally, make your "Keep Out" sign and hang it near to the doorway.

Now that you have built your den, make sure you enjoy it as much as you can. Don't worry if it breaks, just build another one!



## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S**

How could you make sure your sticks are safe?

**I**

Why shouldn't you worry if it breaks?

**I**

Who should you ask for permission?

**V**

Write a better word for "big".

**E**

Draw and label a picture of what your den might look like.

Answers:

1. Blanket, sheet or tarpaulin
2. Keep Out
3. A breeze
4. Birds, beavers, bees
5. Chairs or a table

S: Tie them to a tree

I: You can make a new one

I: Any appropriate adult figure

V: Any suitable synonym

E: Accept any drawing that shows an understanding of the instructions