U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Campbell Creek Science Center

Shelter Building

Shelters can protect you from the elements or provide a good hiding spot indoors. In this activity, build your own shelter!

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Directions

- Choose the location for your shelter. This can be inside or outside. What natural features can you use to your advantage? (Outside examples include trees with lowhanging boughs or a large rock. Inside examples include a corner in your house or a large piece of furniture.)
- 2. Choose materials to build your shelter. Use items that you can move safely and respectfully. If you are building your shelter outside, collect only down or dead wood, but otherwise be creative about material and resource use. Be respectful of living plants.
- 3. Think about a design for your structure.
- 4. Build your shelter. Make sure it is secure so it will not collapse on top of you.
- 5. Enjoy spending time in your shelter! When you are done using your shelter, remember to leave no trace! Return materials you used to where you found them.

Lean-to

Materials

- Location to build a shelter (inside or outside)
- Items from that area to build a shelter

Questions

- What challenges did you overcome to build your shelter?
- How might shelter building materials vary from one environment to another?
 From season to season?

A common design for a stick shelter is called a lean-to. This shelter has a main large stick that leans up against a natural item such as a stump or rock. Then smaller sticks lean against the large stick to form the walls.