

Make a nest box

Notes

- Lesson to be taught after the adaptations lesson.
- Dependent on class size and tool abundance this lesson may take more than one session.

Starter

- Display some photos of habitats that are found round Orkney. What are the differences between them, what animals might live in each of them?
- Display some photos of animals and plants found in Orkney. What habitats might they require and why? What adaptations do they have to make them well suited for their habitat.
- Do you think there has been an impact on these habitats by humans? What impact may this have? What can we do to help?
- Introduce the idea of building bird boxes to help local wildlife thrive. Demonstrate the techniques used for the cutting of the wood ensuring you go over the health and safety rules around using saws. For example some schools use the saw, clamp, hand system so that the saw always has a clamp between it and the student's hand.
- Briefly talk through the instruction sheet found in the resources section and explain the importance of accurate measuring.

Activity

- In a way that you feel confident, set your children the task of measuring and then cutting the wood for their bird boxes.
- Each child should have a copy of the resources sheet so they can follow the instructions.

Plenary

- What were some of the issues that the bird boxes might solve?
- What went well with peoples' builds? What would people do differently next time?

Extension idea

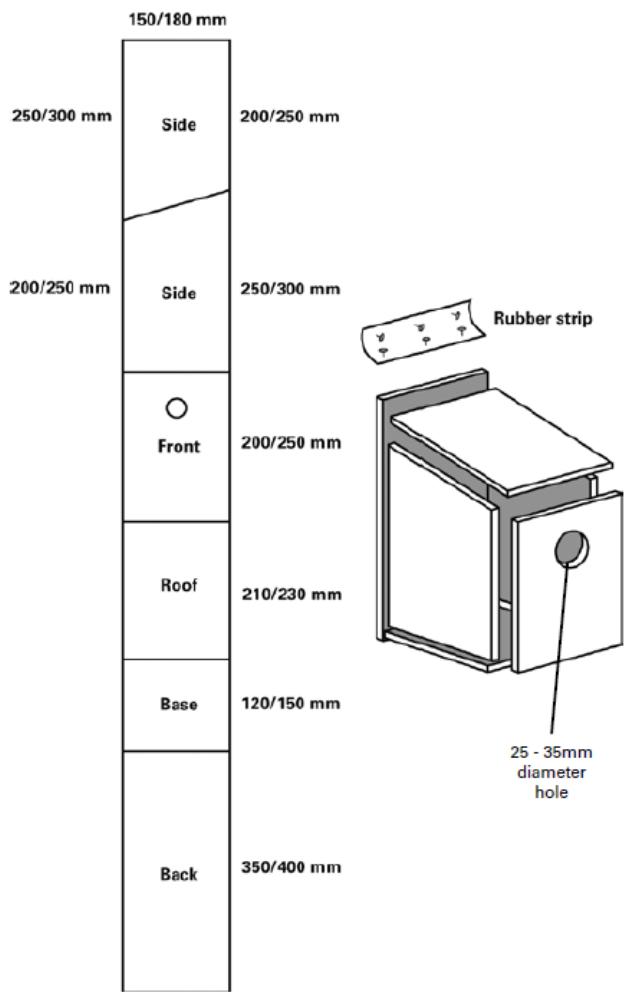
- Children design their own nest box or habitat box for a different set of species i.e bug hotel or vole hole. Be imaginative but make sure that your drawings are accurate and measured out correctly.

Make A Nest Box

You will need:

- A plank 150-180mm wide, 1330-1580mm long and 15mm thick.
- 14 galvanised round head nails, 155mm long.
- Strip of rubber such as old bike inner tube.
- Small hammer.
- Saw.
- Drill and 25-35mm drill bit.

1. With the help of an adult cut the plank up to the sizes shown here and drill the hole in the front of the box



2. Nail the sides to the back with three nails on each side
3. Slot the bottom piece into place and nail it to the sides. Use two nails on each side.
4. Nail the front onto the sides with four nails.
5. Using the small nails, fix one side of the rubber strip to the piece of wood for the lid - this will be the hinge. Put the lid on top of the box and nail the other side of the rubber strip to the box. Don't nail down the lid though!



6. Find a quiet place in your garden. The ideal spot is between two and five metres from the ground and facing between north and east.

