TRY IT!

BEE HOTEL

MATERIALS

Wide-Mouthed Container  String  (Optional) Craft Supplies
Paper  (Optional) Paper Straws, Twigs, Hollow Bamboo Stems
Tape
Scissors

PROCEDURE

1. (Optional) Decorate the outside of the container with craft supplies such as stickers or paper.
2. Cut the paper into strips that are at least six inches long.
3. Roll the paper around a pencil to make a tube, and secure the tube with tape.

4. Make enough paper tubes to fill the container completely. Paper straws, hollow bamboo stems, and twigs can also be added.

5. Tie string around the container and hang the hotel in an area with native flowering plants.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
Many bees in New York State are solitary cavity-dwelling insects. Most of these bees lay their eggs in small cavities such as hollow stems, or holes or tunnels made by other animals such as woodpeckers or beetles. Female bees will lay eggs inside the cavity in late summer or early fall, and cap the cavity to protect the eggs which will hatch the following spring. Unlike honeybees, most solitary bees do not travel far from their nests, so it's best to hang your bee hotel near a selection of native flowering plants. After the bees hatch in the spring, any used tubes can be removed and replaced with clean ones to prevent the spread of fungus and mites.

NYS P-12 SCIENCE LEARNING STANDARDS
This activity connects to the following components:
- Disciplinary Core Idea - LS1.A - Structure and Function
- Science & Engineering Practice - Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Crosscutting Concept - Systems and System Models

"All sorts of things can happen when you're open to new ideas and playing around with things."

- STEPHANIE KWOLEK