

A Cabin for a Fairy

Last week's task was to mould a fairy. Now your task is to build it a cabin made out of natural materials. What kind of summer house would an fairy want to occupy?

Take your fairy out to your natural surroundings, e.g., a forest. Think about what kind of location would be the most suitable for the character you made. Do you think it needs protections from the wind, or does it want to be able to see far from atop a rock? Could a good spot for the fairy be up in the tree branches?

Choose a spot and collect materials that are suitable for the dwelling from your surroundings. Have respect for the natural beauty of the place – don't snap living branches, and don't detach growing moss. Build a small cabin in a place of your choice.

You can use spaces and hollows as part of the cabin you build. You could also stick branches with a fork at the end soft ground, and on them, balance a third stick horizontally for in order to build a roof. You can lean other sticks against it to form a roof. The construction can then still be covered with some other material. You don't need glue or any other adhesive material. This way, you can leave the cabin where it is without littering.

Check the proportions of the cabin in relation to the fairy. How large is the entrance to the cabin? How high does the roof have to be, so that the fairy is able to stand there? Does the fairy only sleep in the cabin, or are there different places to perform different tasks? What kinds of things could the fairy find beautiful and want to collect and display?

What would the cabin look like from the fairy's point of view? When its complete, take a picture of your cabin from the height of a fairy – picture how the fairy would approach the cabin and place your phone or camera at that height. Wait until the camera is focused on the right spot. You might need to take several pictures.



What you need

- natural materials for building in nature
- a camera or a phone to document the work

Goal

You practice building a small cabin out of available natural materials. You learn about the properties of materials when you build by arranging things without using adhesives or binding materials. You also learn to document your work by taking a picture of it.

Background



This light cabin is built into the roots of a tree by firmly placing sticks into the ground and balancing smaller sticks onto them.



The buildings in this yard are made using forked branches to support the structure.



This rocky cave is made by balancing rocks against each other. A large rock forms the roof. Inside, on a stone table, is the fairy's treasure: a beautifully polished piece of glass.

In prehistoric times, people lived in caves and in wooden cabins. Fires warmed the dwellings in which people slept and food was prepared. The Sami 'kota' and the Native American teepee have their origins as simple cabins thrown together out of branches. People all around the world have been able to skilfully appropriate materials found around them to build their dwellings. Eskimos built igloos out of snow. In Africa, people built clay huts. Have you visited the ['The seal hunter's dwelling in Espoo'](#) modelled after an actual Stone Age building?

You can find pictures of [story book houses](#) from around the world here.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES:

Take a picture of your cabin complete with a fairy! Tell someone about the fairy – what kind of nature it has, what it is protecting, and what it usually does.

If you have access to a good building place during the summer, you can build yourself a cabin for your own games! It's a fun activity with friends, siblings and adults.

