

Animal Architecture

with Nicole Banowetz



The Big Idea

We will look at **animal architecture** to inspire us to create. Animals make their homes using the materials that surround them. These animals have to adapt as their environments and situations change.

You'll Need

- Paper and Pencils
- Available sculpture materials--

The materials you use will be determined by your surroundings:

- Natural materials you find outside
 - Recyclable materials
 - Blankets, pillows
- Step-By-Step tutorial:
www.think360arts.org



The Plan

Step 1 - First, we will learn about different structures that animals such as birds and insects build and how they can be inspirational for us.

Step 2 - Join in the brainstorming session. Fold a piece of paper in half two times and number the 4 sections.

Step 3 - You will be given 4 prompts. Draw an idea for each prompt in each section.

Prompt 1: A shelter for small animals using natural materials you would find outside.

Prompt 2: A shelter for an insect using materials you would find in a recycling bin

Prompt 3: A shelter for a human using materials you would find outdoors.

Prompt 4: A shelter for a human using materials you would find in your bedroom.



The Plan cont.

Step 4 - Now that you have some ideas let's think about materials. Everyone will have access to different sorts of materials but there are 3 main categories:

- Natural materials you find outdoors.
- Materials from the recycling bin.
- Materials from in your bedroom (If you want to make a blanket fort style).

Step 5 - Depending on what materials you have access to then you can decide a size.

- Structure for an insect.
- Structure for a small creature like a bird or a squirrel.
- Structure for yourself.

Step 6 - Now it's time to gather our materials and create our animal architecture. This process will be different for each of us. Remember to find inspiration from animal ingenuity and that your sculpture does not need to be permanent. Stay safe and ask permission before using materials around your house and yard.

Teaching Artist Tip

- It can be difficult to make sculptures without tape or glue. Think about how birds and ants weave materials. Also, think about cutting slits and folding recycled cardboard and paper materials to fit them together. If you have string, you can use it to tie materials together. If you are making small structures outside you can use grass ties or make a mud glue.
- Remember this project can be temporary. If you use natural materials you can let them decay naturally outside, or maybe an actual animal will like your structure and move in.
- Once you gather materials you might want to make another brainstorming drawing before you put them together.

Going Further

- Do you know of any artists that work with natural materials to make sculptures? Google "Andy Goldsworthy" for more inspiration.
- Since your sculpture might be temporary you can photograph it to share with your friends and family.
- Do you appreciate animal creations more after your experience?
- Can you find any actual animal architecture around your house?

