

# Bird Hide Design

## Dragons' Den

### Challenge



----- Primary School

Design and Technology

# The challenge

Our school has some excellent areas for watching wildlife but we have nowhere to hide from the animals and birds.

You have been challenged to design and make a model bird hide that can be presented to a Dragons' Den of experts.

# So... what is a bird hide?

**Bird hide** (or hide) is a shelter, often **camouflaged**, that is used to observe wildlife, especially birds, at close quarters.

Although hides were once built chiefly as a hunting aid, they are now commonly found in parks and wetlands for the use of bird watchers, ornithologists and other observers who do not want to disturb wildlife as it is being observed.

# What were hides used for in the past?

**Machan** – this is a raised wildlife hide.

When the British were still in rule in India, they used to use raised hides for hunting, so they could see into the jungle below to hunt tigers!

Back in the UK camouflaged hides were used for the same purpose of hunting deer.



# Hides have changed!

The use of hides is very different today.



[www.data.org.uk](http://www.data.org.uk)



# Thinking more about bird hides

- Look at the photos on the previous slide
- What size are the bird hides?
- What materials are they made from?
- Have they all got features in common?

# What are bird hides used for today?

- **Hobby – bird watching**
- **Bird hides give a warm, dry and safe place to observe the birds which means you can stay longer**
- **Hides allow you not to disturb the birds and other wildlife**
- **They allow charities and scientists to observe and record important data about the birds they see**

# So... why are bird hides important?

## Protecting bird species

Bird hides allow us to monitor and protect birds that are in danger of being attacked or harmed.

They also allow us to follow the movements of visiting birds.

We can learn a lot by watching birds' behaviour and eating patterns.



Sea Eagle



Night Jar



Stone - Curlew



# Now it's your challenge

You have been challenged to design and make a model bird hide that can be presented to a Dragons' Den of experts.

The first task is to create a list of rules that your design must follow. Its called a design specification. What does the bird hide need to do?

For the second task you must complete 2 page of ideas. The ideas (more than 4) must be coloured or shaded and have notes explaining them.

You must then choose one of these ideas and draw it on its own. You may use paper or computer. This FINAL DESIGN should also be coloured or shaded and have notes explaining why you chose it over the others.

The next part of the task is to create a model of your final design. This can be built out of anything you want. It does not have to be to scale! You may also use a 3D drawing programme if you wish.

The final part is the evaluation. Say what went right and wrong and be honest! What would you change if you did it again and why?

# Possible materials to make your bird hide

- **Dowel/pencils**
- **10mm square section birch**
- **Straws**
- **Card**
- **Paper**
- **Fabric**
- **Lolly sticks**
- **And anything else you can think of or find to use!**