



the lost words

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DESIGN THE IDEAL DEN AND WILD HABITAT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

First, decide where your den will be sited. It needs to be a safe place and you may need to gain permission for construction by writing a formal email or letter.

What rules do you think should apply to den construction if you are also showing respect for the environment? Reach a class agreement.

A GOOD EXAMPLE IS FROM THE EDEN PROJECT:

The Den Commandments

- Respect the environment.
 - Please don't damage the den site; true den-masters leave no trace.
 - Always tidy up after yourself. Please don't drop litter, especially if you use man-made materials.
 - Look after living trees and plants: they take years to grow and seconds to destroy.
 - Check whose land you are planning to build on: you don't want to be chased off halfway through and you don't want to upset the neighbours.
 - Don't steal from other peoples' dens!
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WORKING IN SMALL GROUPS, PLAN AND DESIGN THE IDEAL DEN, USING NATURAL MATERIALS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

Create a mind map of the different features you think a den should have. The Woodland Trust has useful information:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/2015/09/tree-mendous-den-building/>

Sketch your ideas out with annotations.

Now make a more detailed scale drawing on squared paper, not forgetting to show the scale.

Map the area, showing the site of your den.

Draw up a list of resources, how to source them and any costings.

If any resources you need are not free, decide how you can raise the funds to cover costs.

Build your den!

Record the construction process by photographing or filming so that you can create a set of instructions or an information video. Time lapse is a wonderful way to do this!

