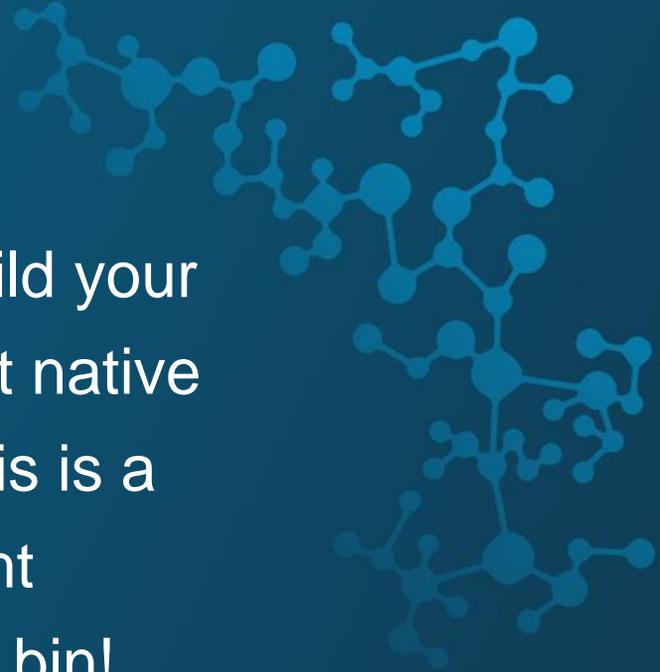




# Build Your Own Bee House

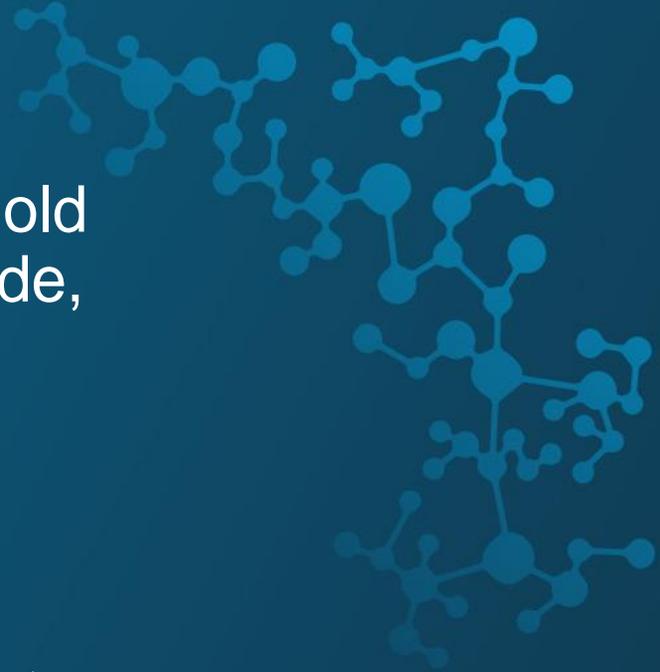
**EXPERIMENT**

In this science experiment, you will build your very own bee house and observe what native bees come to visit. The best part is, this is a great way to reuse items that you might otherwise throw in the trash or recycle bin!



# What you'll need

- Sheets of paper (construction paper, old printer paper that is printed on one side, etc.)
- 5/16" dowel rod or pencil
- Masking tape
- Empty oatmeal canister, milk carton, coffee can, or other straight-sided, water-resistant container
- Extra long zip ties



# Directions:

1. Cut sheets of paper 5-6 inches wide and approximately 8½ inches long. If you are using a standard sheet of paper, you can simply fold the paper in half along the long edge and cut along the fold.
2. Line up the pencil or dowel rod with the short edge of the paper, and roll the paper tightly to form a tube.
3. Tape your tube securely with masking tape so that it does not unroll, and slide out the pencil or dowel rod. Repeat this until you have enough tubes to completely fill the container.

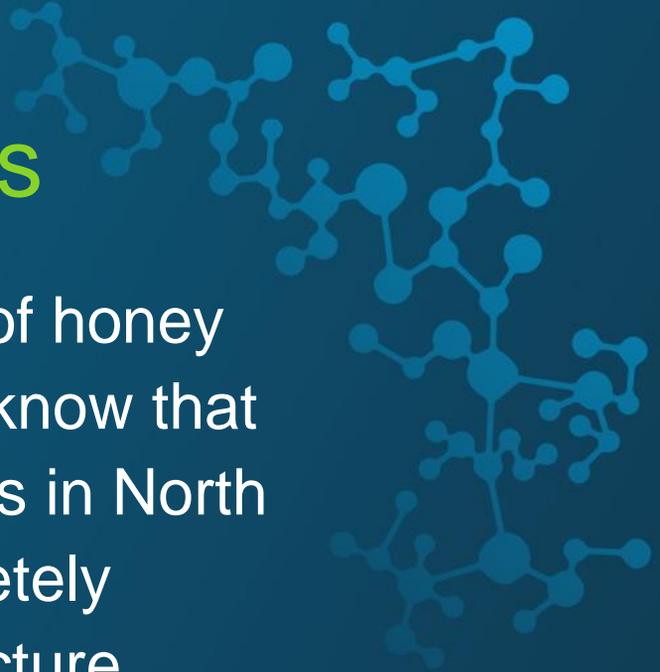
# Directions:

4. Gently pack your bee tubes into your water-resistant container, pushing them all the way to the back of the container. The tubes should fit snugly so they don't slip out.
5. With the zip ties, hang your bee house in a sunny location near a garden, flower bed, or other food sources.

Note: Your house should angle very slightly down so that if it rains, water will be able to drain out of the tubes and they will not stay wet.

# Background: Solitary Bees

When you think of bees, do you think of honey bees buzzing around a hive? Did you know that there are around 4,000 species of bees in North America and many of them are completely different from the bees we normally picture when we think of bees?



## Background: Solitary Bees

Most of our native bees are solitary, and while some of these native bees look like the bees we think of with yellow stripes on their abdomens, others are dark brown, black, or even shiny and green. Some are large like the bumble bee, but others, like tiny sweat bees are less than  $\frac{1}{4}$ " long.



# Background: Solitary Bees

Native bees help pollinate not only the flowers that make our gardens pretty but also cherry trees, apples, squash, watermelons, blueberries, cranberries, raspberries, tomatoes, and many other fruits and vegetables that make their way to our dinner tables. In fact, bees are responsible for pollinating more than 75% of the world's crops. We have bees to thank for most of the food we eat!

