

TREES - NATURE'S HOTELS



Trees are an important part of the natural environment. They are nature's hotels with rooms and food for different animals.
Like hotels, trees change with the seasons. They have different foods and different visitors.



Observation



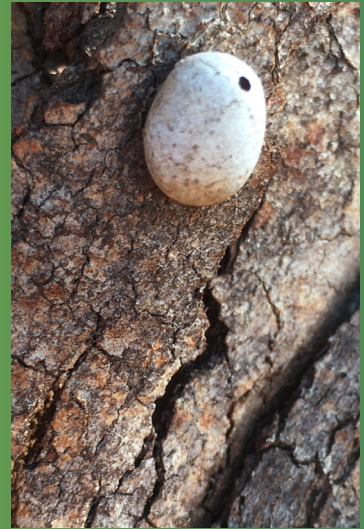
Choose a tree. Look closely and carefully and see if you can find any markings. Try to work out what animals are living in the tree.

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What animals are making their homes on the bark?



Looks for holes, nests webs





Understanding



Trees provide homes for animals and in return animals help trees. Bees are important pollinators of flowers. In the Nature's Hotels Animoto you see honey bees feeding on flowers and coming and going from their hive in a tree trunk. Honey bees are important pollinators but they are not native to WA. They can cause problems for native animals.



In this photo you can see a honey bee and a native bee. Native bees are also important pollinators for lots of plants including native trees and flowers, other flowers, fruit trees and vegetables. Native bees do not live in hives. They are solitary and live in holes.

Find out about honey bees & native bees



Research - Click on this link to find out more about problems with honey bees in the bush. <http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/online-exhibitions/cockatoo-care/feral-bees> Western Australia has many different native bees. Click on this link to learn about some of them. <http://museum.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Native%20Bees.pdf>



Identify - See if you can find and name a native bee in your backyard. This poster may help <http://museum.wa.gov.au/waiss/native-bee-poster/> Or visit this Facebook Page for native bee photographers <https://www.facebook.com/groups/479428025586681/>



Create - Native bees need holes to shelter in and for their larvae to incubate. Different types of bees need different sized holes. We can provide holes for native bees by making insect hotels with tubes of varying diameters to accommodate different species. Steps to make a native bee hotel.

Make your own... Insect hotel



Follow the instructions on the Trees - Nature's Hotels Animoto. <https://animoto.com/play/nZHs2F70EED4gkfZl1zMkQ>
(this link needs to be opened in Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Mozilla Firefox to play)

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Materials needed & instructions



Food tin, bamboo, straws, honky nuts, scissors, hacksaw or secateurs, cardboard box, masking tape. Get an empty, washed food tin.



Collect tubes of different sizes eg straws, hollow sticks, bamboo (this grows as a weed on verges and vacant blocks in many suburbs. It is ok to go and cut some sticks of different sizes) or cardboard box cardboard rolled into a tube and fastened with masking tape.



Cut the tubes and bamboo to the same length as the height of your tin.



Pack tubes of different sizes into your tin until it is tight (none fall out when you tip it upside down.)



You're finished. Pack up all the left over materials or make more hotels.



Find a place sheltered from the wind and rain to sit your hotel.



Wait and watch. One day you'll see insects coming to your hotel.