## DIY Solitary Bee Shelter

## Arts & Crafts Activity

A habitat is a home or environment consisting of food, water, and shelter. All animals need habitat of some kind. Pollinators are an important category of animal, made up of over 1000 species of bees, wasps, ants, birds, butterflies, moths, and beetles in Canada. They need our care and attention, and one way to do that is by providing them with habitat wherever possible. So, let's tackle one piece of the puzzle by creating some shelters for solitary bees!

## **Materials**

- Ceramic coffee mug
- Bamboo canes or rolled up sheets of paper
- (Optional) Compost sticks, branches, leaves, recycled newspaper

Cut the bamboo canes or rolled up sheets of paper so they are slightly shorter than the height of

the chosen mug.

Tip: Cavities should be 2-10mm in diameter.



SCHOOL FOOD GARDENS



3 If needed, fill in the gaps with whatever compost you've gathered. Once again, the goal is to ensure everything fits snugly inside the mug. Pack the cut bamboo or paper into the mug so that they fit snugly together without moving around when you shake the mug from side to side (you don't want them becoming dislodged when the mug sways in the wind)

Hang your new bee shelter from a bush or short tree branch. You'll want to find a spot that is about a meter off the ground. Be sure to check in on it periodically, and clean it out each year. Enjoy!