

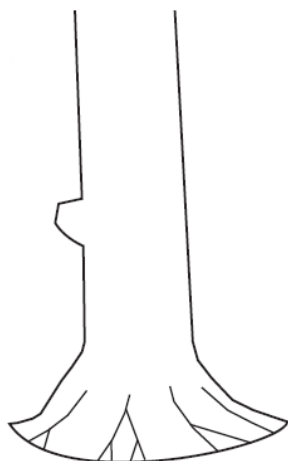
# Den building

Here's a simple way to make a sturdy den in the woods.

Once you've mastered this technique, get creative and have a go at designing and building your own shelter.

## 1. Find a good foundation

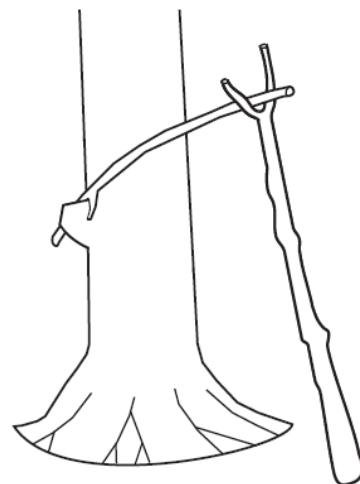
Look for a strong tree with suitable nooks, crannies and knobbly bits which will help to form the base of your framework.



## 2. Build a sturdy framework

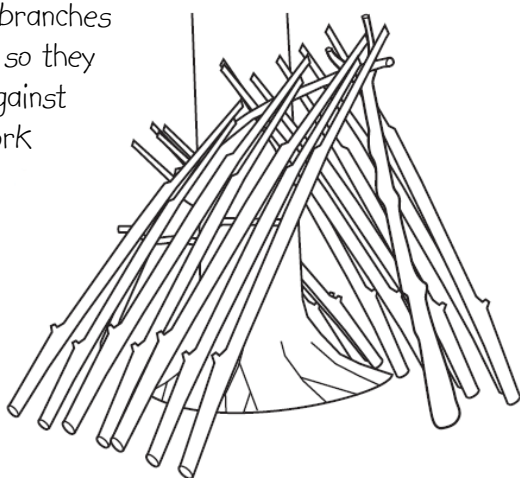
Find a couple of large branches which you can firmly wedge together against the tree to make your den's main framework, like in the picture here.

A strong, low branch works well too!



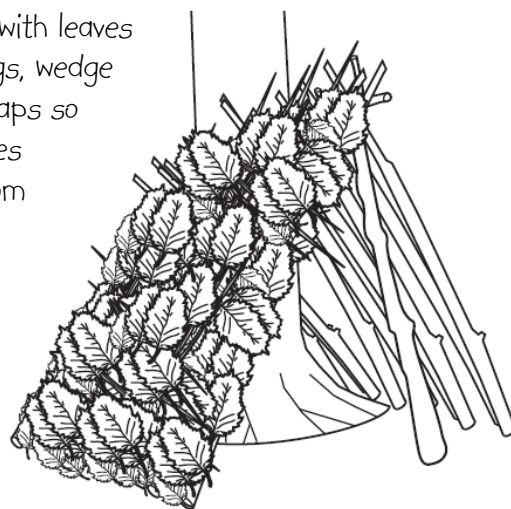
## 3. Strengthen your framework

Collect more branches and lay them so they are leaning against your framework like so. Pack them closely together so they are secure as possible.



## 4. Protect from the elements

Cover your den with leaves and smaller twigs, wedge them into any gaps so your den provides good shelter from wind and rain.



Voila! You have your very own tree-tastic den :O)

Get your den published on the Nature Detectives website – email a photo to: [naturedetectives@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:naturedetectives@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

These instructions won't make a foolproof den – use the materials that you find in the woods and adapt your structure accordingly. Please don't cut anything down and don't damage anything in your enthusiasm to construct the perfect den :O)



Start your own adventure at [naturedetectives.org.uk](http://naturedetectives.org.uk)

Fun stuff for kids, families and schools by the Woodland Trust, a charity registered in England & Wales (294344) and Scotland (SC038885) at Kempton Way, Grantham, NG31 6LL  
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