

Like I said, your adventure is going to go wherever you want it to go. But, you will have some challenges and tasks along the way to help serve as a guide. Every great adventurer can learn from the past to figure out where they want to go in the future and you're no different.



Your first adventure challenge is going to focus on shelter. What's shelter and why is this part of your adventure? Shelter is something that provides protection and covers us when we're outside. People first built shelters out of rocks, leaves, and branches to provide protection from the sun, rain, and wind. Shelters also protect us from animals and other dangers. Think of the place where you live. It might be a house or an apartment. It's a structure! But the place where you live is a lot different than the structures that humans had thousands of years ago. And, it's a lot different from what you would have if you could only build something on your own in nature with only the resources around you.

You can learn a lot more about the history of structures by doing a little research. If you want, search for the history of shelters and focus on an area that interests you which might include indigenous peoples' structures, structures from the Stone Age, or those from the Stone Age. Only research these if you're interested and want to learn more, or if you think you could use some more info while you start to work on your first challenge. Don't ever seek to learn more if you're not interested or just because you think you should. I don't do boring and never want you to be bored. But learning is great when you're interested and curious.

Let's get to the challenge!

Imagine that you've just been dropped into the woods. The woods that you picture should be a nature area that you've visited somewhere close to your house. The only thing you have is a hatchet and the clothes that your wearing. Yes, there's a book about this! Your challenge is to design a structure that you could build to stay in for one night. You will only be able to use your hatchet to collect anything you need to build the structure.

Your goal is to build the absolute best structure that you can. What would be the best structure to keep you safe and protected from the elements and danger?

What you need...

You might need to do a little reading about wilderness structures. You might not. That's up to you. If you want to learn some more about structures before you get started, use the shelter badge form as your guide. If you complete the form and submit it you'll earn your shelter badge. If you want to get going without it, go for it.

What you do...

You're going to draw your shelter. What will it look like and where will you build it? You're also going to list all of the materials that will go into your structure. After you've completed your plan, share it with someone you know. Discuss your ideas with a friend or family member and tell them what you're thinking.

What's next

Feel free to share your drawing here so I can post it and you can compare what you've created to all of the other cool ideas that other kids have. When you're finished with your drawing, discussion, and reflection, it's time for step # 4!

