

# LET'S BUILD A Gnome Home!



Animals and other creatures all have homes, so why not gnomes and fairies? This activity will help you learn about balance and construction.

## WHAT YOU NEED:

- Twigs/sticks
- Leaves
- Small stones
- Nuts, flowers, vines, bark or moss

## HOW TO:

- Find a good location where there is little foot traffic (maybe near a hedge, flower bed or under a tree trunk)
- Place your base of sticks/twigs in a shape (square or triangle or even more sides). Pushing the corner sticks into the ground may give your home more stability.
- Overlap the ends. Continue building, placing sticks on the opposite ends, overlap again. Continue adding sticks and twigs to make the home as high as you want.
- Use shorter pieces to make a window or door.
- Add a roof out of leaves, moss, vines or bark.
- Decorate your home with flowers or nuts. Make a path of pebbles or small twigs to lead the gnomes to their home.

**Option 1:** Build a teepee-style home. Start with a base of stones and lean the sticks onto each other with the tops touching.

**Option 2:** If you live near a wooded area, make a kid-sized fort. It's a good place to read a book on a hot summer day!

## WHAT IS HAPPENING?



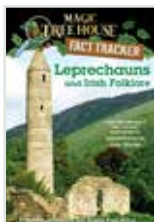
You have become an engineer. You are constructing a building using balance, spatial awareness and geometry. The more you build the easier it will become. During the winter, try building with materials in your home. Or, if you are brave, make an igloo outside.



## Fun Fact



Did you know that in Charlevoix, Michigan there are people that live in Hobbit Houses or Gnome Homes inspired by the book *Lord of the Rings* by Tolkien? Take a visit there and see for yourself.



### Related Books:

- *Fairy House Handbook* by Liza Gardner Walsh
- *Gnome* by Fred Blunt
- *Leprechauns and Irish Folklore* by Mary Pope Osborne

