



Shelterbuilding

Imagine you need to spend the night in the woods ... you need a shelter to keep yourself warm and dry.

- Firstly find a strong, straight ridge pole – this will take all the weight of your shelter so the ridge pole should be strong but not too heavy.

There are two different styles of shelter that you can build:

- **A-frame shelter** - find two trees next to each other with branches sticking out that you can rest your ridge pole on horizontally, then add a frame of sticks and branches leaning from the ridge pole to the ground. The ridge pole should be no higher than shoulder height.
- **Spine and Ribs shelter** - find a fork in a tree to rest one end of your ridge pole on, and rest the other end on the ground. Add your framework of sticks from the ridge pole to the ground.
- Cover your shelter with fallen leaves or pine needles to make it waterproof.
- Ask a grown-up to check that the shelter is sturdy by shaking the ridge pole, before you get inside.
- Test how waterproof your shelter is by getting the grown-ups to throw some water onto it...with you inside!
- When you have finished, please take your shelters down. This could be dangerous so take care. Do not go inside to do it. Drag the branches away carefully and take it down in the reverse order – the last thing to come down should be the ridge pole.

Safety points:

- There are lots of things that you could trip over in the shelterbuilding area – do not run.
- Don't carry your branches under your arm or on your shoulder – you could hit someone. You should drag them with one end on the ground and your hand covering the other end, or share the load with a partner, carrying them by your sides.
- Do not use branches that are too thick or heavy.

