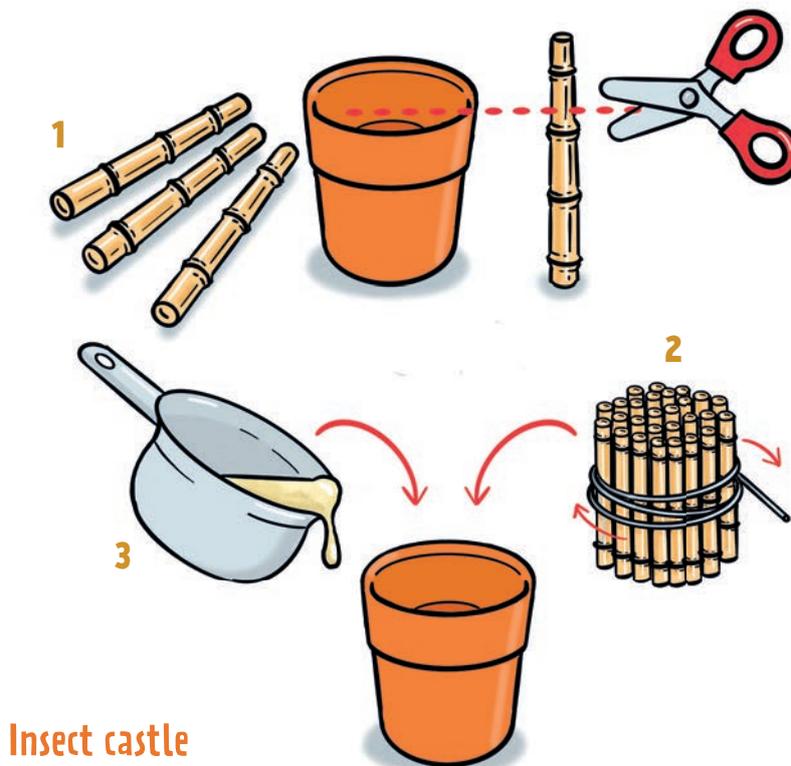


- 2 For the second experiment, invite the Scientists to make a circle with the thumb and forefinger of one hand. Choose an object across the room and, with the circle at arm's length, challenge them to look at the object through the circle, trying to get it in middle. Now ask them to close one eye and then the other. Say that if they close an eye and the object seems to jump out of the circle, they have just closed their dominant eye!

The science bit: our brains form pictures of the world around us using the information it gets through our eyes. It will favour one eye over the other, meaning when it has a choice, such as the one you gave it when you looked through the circle, it will always choose one eye over the other.

- 3 For the third experiment you could explore fingerprints. Invite the Scientists to draw five squares on a sheet of paper. Show them how to roll the ends of each of their fingers and the thumb of one hand on the ink pad and print out a fingerprint in each box, labelling which one is which. Encourage them to look at the prints through a magnifying glass and try to pick out patterns and repeated features. If you have access to the internet, search for common patterns in fingerprints (or print them out before the session). What patterns can they spot in their own fingerprints? Are any the same? (Make sure the fingerprints are either taken home or destroyed at the end of the session.)



Insect castle

What you need

- clay plant pots
- bamboo canes
- scissors
- string
- wax (and the means to melt it)

What you do

- 1 Before the club, cut the bamboo canes into the right length to sit neatly in the plant pots (there may be someone in your congregation who can do this for you).
- 2 Give each Scientist a plant pot and some lengths of bamboo canes and show them how to tie the canes into small bundles with the string (this makes them easier to handle).
- 3 Melt some wax in a microwave and pour some into the bottom of each pot (being careful not to let it dribble out of the holes in the bottom). Help the Scientists to stick the ends of their bundles of cane into the wax, securing

the canes into the pot. (You could also use play dough or similar to fix the canes in the pot.)

- 4 Invite the Scientists to take their pot home and place it in a damp shady spot in their garden. If children don't have any outside space, you could arrange to place them in your church grounds. Encourage them to go back in a couple of days', a week's and a month's time to see what kinds of insects they can see going in and out of the insect castle!

The science bit: many insects thrive in cool, dark, damp places and creating this castle will give them somewhere to live. It also gives children the chance to observe the insects and count the different kinds without trapping or killing them.

