

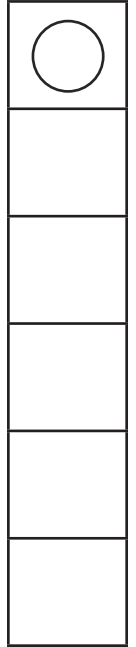
# Make Something out of Wood

This activity will help you learn how to make a bird box for birds to shelter in during the spring. Maybe you'll get lucky and a bird will build a nest and lay eggs in it!

It is very important that you have an adult helping you with this activity as some of the tools you will be using can be dangerous.

## You will need:

- a plank of wood (any size will work but at least 15cm wide)
- tape measure
- a saw which is the right size for your hands (not too big)
- a hammer which is the right size for your hands (not too big)
- an awl (a screwdriver would work if you don't have an awl)
- nails or a hot glue gun if you are going to glue your box together
- pencil
- safety goggles



## What to do:

1. Using a tape measure, draw five lines on your plank of wood so you have six squares. (You might have a small piece left over.) The measurements will depend on the size of your plank, so have an adult help you.
2. On one of the squares, draw a circle like in the diagram.
3. Using the saw, cut out the six squares. See the 'Health and Safety Tips' for how to use a saw safely.
4. To cut out the circle, place the awl on the line, and hammer on top of it until the awl goes through. Repeat until the hole is cut out. See the 'Health and Safety Tips' for how to use an awl safely.
5. The six squares will go together to make a cube which is the bird box. Start by joining two squares together. If you are using a hot glue gun, glue along the edge of one square and place it at a right angle to another square like this:



If you are using nails, place one square flat on a table and place another square next to it. Hammer in nails where the arrow shows:

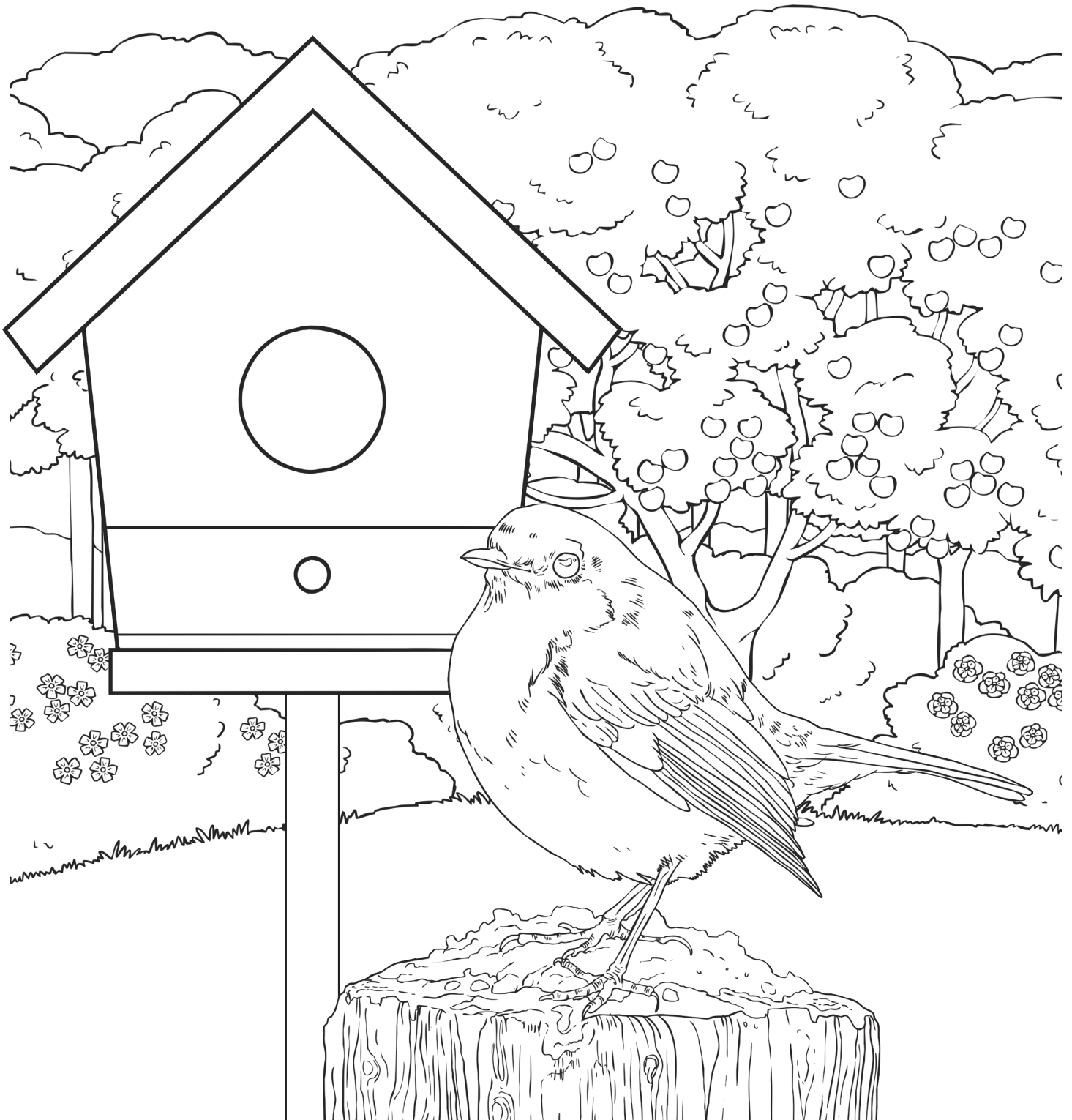


See the 'Health and Safety Tips' for how to use a hot glue gun and nails safely.

- Repeat your joining method until you have five squares making almost a cube. The square with the hole in needs to go at the front, with an empty space at the top.
- The last square is the lid and isn't nailed on, but rests on top.

### Where to put your box:

Ask an adult to attach your bird box to a tree, around two to five metres high. This will stop animals such as cats from reaching it.



## Health and Safety Tips

Firstly, you must have an adult with you while you are using all of these tools!

**Saw** – Never run your fingers or hand along the teeth of the saw. Make sure you are wearing safety goggles. Put the saw in the hand you write with. Hold the wood carefully with your other hand (if you can't do this, ask your adult to hold it for you). Do slow, long strokes with your saw. Put pressure on the forward stroke, not on the backward stroke.

**Hammer and awl** – Make sure you are wearing safety goggles. Ask your adult to hold the wood. Hold the awl with the hand you don't write with. Use the hammer to tap on the top of the awl. Use gentle taps at first, you might not need heavy bangs.

**Hot glue gun** – Make sure you are wearing safety goggles. You can wear gloves, but only if they are special heat-proof gloves (other types may melt). Ask your adult to plug in the glue gun and keep it until it is ready. They should also unplug the glue gun and put it away afterwards. If you get burned, run it under cold water straight away (with a serious burn, your adult will know what to do).

**Hammer and nails** - Make sure you are wearing safety goggles. Ask your adult to hold the nail in place. Gently tap on the head of the nail with the hammer, if the nail doesn't go in, try tapping a bit harder.

