

Handout: Cane den building

Cane Dens: A creative way of quickly changing the play space.

The completed framework is sturdy, lightweight and portable. Can be used indoors or out. Pick cane size to suit your space and your children. As an example, 4ft canes create an internal floor diameter of approx 6ft (and are easily stored) – 8 ft canes allow several adults to stand up inside.

You will need:

25 bamboo canes (garden type) + 50 large paper clips + Insulating tape + String

Preparation:

Tape a paper clip to each end of every cane, so that it creates a short 'loop'

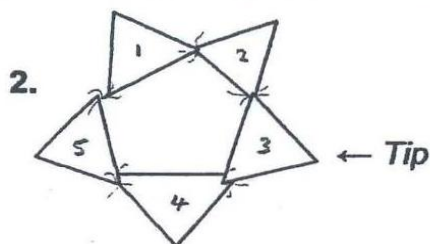
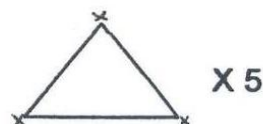


Pre-preparation of canes is not essential, but it makes construction simpler and more accessible for children – certainly for the first attempt.

Construction: (You need at least 5 people to do this easily - with minimal instruction children can do this themselves)

1. Take 15 canes.

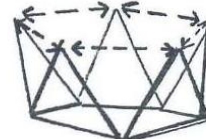
Lay canes on floor to make 5 flat triangles.
Tie corner loops together with string.



2. Lay Triangles – corner to corner – so that inner space makes a pentagon.
Tie, re-using corner loops.

3. Take 5 more canes.

Hold triangles upright by the tips – lean out slightly from base. 3.
Tie 1 cane from tip of first triangle to tip of the next.
Repeat till 3D pentagon is complete.
Structure will now be free standing – just.



4.



4. Take remaining 5 canes.
Tie together at one end as a bunch.

5. Stand in middle of structure (helps if a tall person does this).

Holding tied end uppermost,
Open canes (like an umbrella).
Tie end of one cane to each triangle tip.



The structure is now complete and free standing.
Use as it is or decorate, cover, furnish, extend.....

Safety note: The structure is sturdy, but not strong enough to climb or swing on.