

How to Build a Stargazing Den with Nova

Learning objective: To write and follow a set of instructions using imperative verbs, chronological adverbs, and clear steps.

Read the guide below written by Nova the owl. Pay close attention to the 'bossy' verbs (imperative verbs) at the start of each sentence. Once you have finished reading, answer the questions provided.

How to Build the Perfect Stargazing Den by Nova. Are you ready to watch the night sky in comfort? Follow these steps to create your own cosmic hideout. 1. Gather your materials: four sturdy chairs, two large blankets, and a soft pillow. 2. Arrange the chairs in a wide square so they are stable. 3. Drape the blankets carefully over the tops of the chairs to create a roof. 4. Tuck the edges of the blankets under the chair legs to keep them secure. 5. Place your pillow inside the den for a cosy seat. 6. Finally, crawl inside with your telescope and enjoy the view of the stars!

Word bank: imperative · chronological · adverb · sequence · method · equipment

1. Identify two imperative (bossy) verbs used in the instructions. Explain why these are important when writing a method. (2 marks)

2. Why is it important to list the equipment before starting the instructions? (2 marks)

3. Look at step 4. What does the word 'secure' mean in this context? (1 mark)

4. Rewrite step 3 using a different chronological adverb (e.g., 'Next', 'Afterwards', 'Then'). (1 mark)

5. If you wanted to add a step about lighting, where would you place it and what would the instruction say? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing what your finished stargazing den looks like. Use arrows to point out where the blankets and the pillow are placed.



Extension challenge: Nova wants to add a 'Safety Tip' box to her instructions. Write two safety instructions using 'must' or 'must not' to ensure the den is safe for everyone.