

How to Build a Stargazing Den with Nova the Owl

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

Use this writing frame to help Nova the Owl explain how to build the perfect cosy den for a night of stargazing. Remember to start each step with an imperative verb (a bossy verb) like 'Place', 'Gather', or 'Secure'.

Nova the Owl loves to look at the constellations, but the night air can be chilly! To stay warm while she explores the sky, she needs a den. A good den needs a sturdy base, a soft floor using blankets, and a roof made of sheets to keep the dew away. Once the den is finished, you can crawl inside with a torch and a notebook to record the stars you see.

Word bank: First · Next · Then · After that · Finally · Carefully · Gently · Securely · Cosy · Sturdy

1. Identify two imperative verbs from the word bank and explain why they are useful when writing instructions. (2 marks)

2. Nova needs a 'sturdy' base for her den. What does the word 'sturdy' mean in this context? (2 marks)

3. Write a 'First' step for the instructions that tells the reader what materials to collect. (2 marks)

4. Why is it important to use chronological adverbs like 'Next' or 'Finally' when writing a set of instructions? (2 marks)

5. Write a final step for the instructions that tells the reader what to do once the den is finished. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram of your stargazing den. Make sure to point out where the 'sturdy' base is and where you will keep your notebook.



Extension challenge: Nova wants to add a 'Safety Rule' to her instructions. Can you write a sentence using a modal verb (like 'should', 'must', or 'could') to explain how to keep the den safe?