THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

From the coldest tundra to the hottest desert, animals make their homes in very different places. Whether underwater, underground, high on a mountain or deep in a forest, animals find or make spaces to provide shelter and safety. Some animals, like moles and prairie dogs, dig burrows or tunnels to make their homes underground. Birds and beavers carefully build their homes out of materials they collect in their environment. Other animals, like some spiders and bees, can make their homes using materials they produce from their bodies. Many large animals, like bison and whales, are so big that they don’t need to build special homes – their home is wherever they go! No matter where they live, all animals have some sort of place that they can call home.

CADDISFLY CREATIONS

Caddisflies are a type of insect that live as adults on land and as babies, or larvae, in the water. As adults, they look very similar to moths. Caddisfly larvae live in streams, rivers, ponds and lakes. They are a special type of insect, because they create their own homes! Caddisfly larvae don’t have hard coverings called exoskeletons, like adults do, so many of them make a portable, protective casing. They produce a silken thread and use it to construct a tube-like case from the materials in their environments. The cases can be made from all silk, or a patchwork of pebbles, shells, seeds and vegetation. Let’s make a casing like a caddisfly larva!

Before you start, you should have:

- Paper towel or toilet paper tube
- Glue
- Cotton balls, beads, sequins, Playdough or paper
- Optional: small stones, twigs, shells or dried grass
- Optional: crayons, paint or markers
Get started:
1. Look at the image below of a caddis fly larva case made from stones or do an image search for “caddisfly larva casing.”
   https://c1.staticflickr.com/9/8225/847949856_dcd959a40f_b.jpg
2. Gather some small items to make the case out of, such as beads, sequins or paper, or even gather small stones or twigs from outside to use. You can roll paper or Playdough into the shape of pebbles.
3. Think about how you could place the items on the tube to make sure it is completely covered and would protect the larva inside.
4. Create your casing! Glue the items you collected to the outside of the tube.
5. Display your creation and tell someone about your caddisfly larva home.

Keep exploring!
Print out the caddisfly image or draw a caddisfly to go in your case. Cut it out and color it before placing it into the casing.

What did you discover?
Upload a photo or video and tag the Sam Noble Museum on Instagram or Facebook. You can also use the hashtags #samnoblehome and #summerexplorers to share!

More information on caddisflies
https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/invertebrates/other-insects/caddisfly


https://lifeinfreshwater.net/caddisfly-larvae-trichoptera/