



**ACADEMY
SCIENCE CAMP**
from home

Build an Exoskeleton

An arthropod is an invertebrate that has jointed legs and an exoskeleton, among other features. The purpose of an exoskeleton, much like your skeleton, is to contain and protect the soft inner organs of the arthropod. It is important for these exoskeletons to be hard enough to protect the animal but flexible enough for the animal to get its own food and prevent from being another animal's food. Can you create your own exoskeleton?

Know before you begin

- This activity can be done inside or outside
- All supplies are easy to find, substitute or leave out entirely
- Adult supervision is recommended
- Please choose a safe space to play

Materials

- Cardboard, boxes, tubes or other items found around your house
- Space to move



The Academy of
Natural Sciences
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-299-1182
ANSP.ORG



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Instructions

1. Gather exoskeleton building supplies.
What materials make the best exoskeleton?
Why or why not?
2. Try to assemble an exoskeleton for yourself.
Is your exoskeleton hard, soft or somewhere in between?
Can you bend your legs to walk?
Can you bend your arms and touch your nose?
3. Sit down on the floor and then try to stand back up.
Was this easy or difficult?
Why or why not?
4. Run In place.
Was this easy or difficult?
Why or why not?
5. Jump up and down.
Was this easy or difficult?
Why or why not?

