Solitary Bee House

Bee houses (or bee hotels) are similar to bird houses, but instead of attracting birds, they attract native solitary bee species. Unlike honey bees, these solitary bees are extremely docile and up to three times more effective as pollinators.

Three-fourths of the world’s flowering plants depend on animals for pollination. While visiting flowers in search of food (nectar and pollen), pollinators accidentally brush against the flower’s reproductive parts, transferring pollen from one flower to another. This enables the plant to reproduce by making fruit or seeds.

**Items Needed:**
- Paper straws
- String or ribbon
- Masking tape
- Scissors

**Instructions:**
1. Cut your paper straws in half (3 or more of them)
2. Cut two pieces of string of equal lengths
3. Gather your straws into a bundle and use your tape to stick them together by wrapping the tape around your bundle
4. Use tape to cover one end of your bundle so that there is only one way into the straws.
5. Ties one piece of string to each end of your bundle
6. Tie the loose ends of your string to each other and hang from a tree or covered area in your garden. Make sure to hang in a location where it will not get wet.

Los Angeles Zoo