


Build a Nest



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In this activity students will learn about different types of birds' nests and build their very own nest.

 A variety of compostable nest building supplies such as twigs, moss, lichen, mud, feathers, dried grass, pine needles. Take a look at this **resource sheet** for different examples of nests.

 Grades: all  10-20 minutes  Activity sheet included



Introduction

Pretend you are a bird who needs to start building its nest. Are you a small Chickadee or Sparrow living in a cup nest? Are you a Dark Eyed Junco camouflaging your ground nest in tall grass? Or maybe you're a Magpie who likes a dome nest with a roof and a back door?

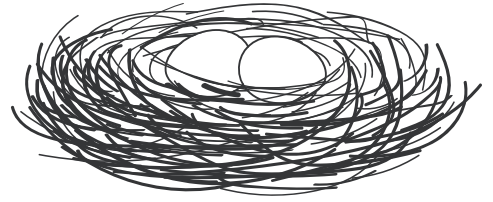
Directions

- Choose which type of nest to make: cup, ground, or dome.
- Gather building materials. Make sure all your materials are natural and compostable.
- Combine your supplies into the shape you want. Hint, some materials bend better when wet.
- Put your nest outside and watch to see if anyone moves in!

Grade 4-7 Extensions

- Research one of the birds from your backyard to learn which kind of nest it makes, before you replicate it.
- Try building your nest using chopsticks (long and slender like a Hummingbird), tweezers (small and strong like a Sparrow) or other beak-like tools.
- Complete the worksheet on the next page.

Nest worksheet



Using the **NestWatch resource** answer the questions below.

1. What type of nest does a Black-headed Grosbeak make?

2. What colour are the eggs of the American Robin?

3. What type of diet do house finches feed their young? Hint: unusual for birds

4. Does a male Mountain Blue Bird help to build the nest?

5. What type of habitat does a Red-winged Blackbird live and nest in?

6. Select a bird of your choice from the list and draw a picture of the bird and its nest.

Answer key: 1. A cup nest 2. Blue 3. Plants/vegetarian diet 4. No, but sometimes he pretends he helps to help. 5. Marsh



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