

Nest Building

Can you create a nest fit for a bird using natural materials?

All

Craft & Design
Technology



The desire to lay eggs and raise young is innate for every bird. Despite this need, not all birds build a nest from scratch – some take advantage of existing holes in trees, some create simple scrapes in the ground and some birds, like the Cuckoo, lay their eggs in other birds' nests to save them the job of looking after their young!

However, most birds work tirelessly each spring to build a nest using only their beaks.

Take some time to consider these amazing structures – the importance of their design and construction for the job they do, the various sizes, shapes and locations chosen. Create your own using natural materials - harder than you think!

Equipment

A range of natural materials for example sticks, moss, feathers, mud, leaves, wool and grass.

Activity

Birds come in all shapes and sizes and so do their nests! The materials the nest is made of depends on the bird and the environment it lives in. Whether built in a tree or on the ground, all nests must have the same basic components –

- Well camouflaged in case of predators.
- Strong and sturdy to withstand the weather.
- Soft inside to protect eggs and young.

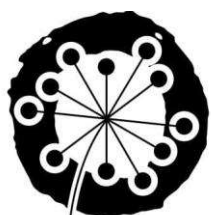
Gather together a range of natural materials to create your nest. Do you have a bird species in mind? Look around your grounds and identify the best place to build your nest (make sure it is somewhere you can reach safely). Why is this a good location? Will your nest be safe from potential predators?

Use the materials you have gathered to create the nest structure. Thinking about the location, the shape and the construction, how can you make sure your nest can withstand the wind and rain?

Once your nest is ready, can you make the inside of the nest a soft and safe place to support eggs and raise young birds?

Extension

- Try building a nest with one handed – birds only have their beaks and feet!
- How can you improve your school grounds to attract more birds?



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