








Build a bird's nest


Educator Notes

Age				
Early Years	4-7	8-12	12-15	16+
				

Time				
> 10 mins	> 30 mins	> 60 mins	> 2 hours	Long term
				

Season				
All year	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
				

Curriculum Links	
Expressive Arts	
Health & Wellbeing	
Literacy & English	
Mathematics	
Sciences	
Social Studies	
Technologies	

Location		
Indoors	Outdoors	Either
		

Equipment list
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Container to collect things in (e.g., basket, bucket) • Natural materials collected outside (e.g. sticks, feathers, leaves, moss and grass)

Instructions

Nests can be built indoors or outdoors, depending on the size and materials being used. In some ways, it's best to let the young people explore the best way to construct a nest by trial and error, but here are few instructions to guide the way.

To give this a scientific twist for older children, you can assign them a species of bird, so they must consider the materials and what size of nest they need to build.

1. Start with a group discussion... Have you ever seen a bird's nest? Look around outside – can you see any in trees or on buildings? What are they made of?
2. Start by building a framework for your nest with larger sticks or rocks, interlocking them to form the basic structure. Use smaller sticks or rocks to keep adding to the structure, filling in any large holes.
3. Once the outer structure of the nest is looking sturdy, find softer materials such as feathers and seaweed to line the nest.
4. Show your finished nests to each other. Would eggs withstand coastal wind? Are they warm enough? Are they camouflaged?
5. Afterwards, why not have your group try the Bird Nest Architects activity sheet (following pages)



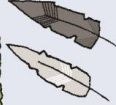
Build a bird's nest

You will need

- Newspaper
- Bags or baskets to collect nesting material
- Access to: sticks, grass, leaves, various other natural materials like pine needles, feathers, moss and mud

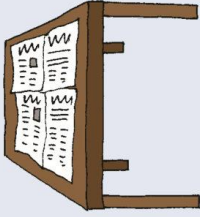


Take care, they can prick!



1

Lay some newspaper on the ground or a table where you want to make your nest – things are going to get messy!



2

Head outdoors and collect all your natural materials and bring it back to your working area. Empty it all out onto the newspaper.



3

Weave your twigs, grass and moss and your natural materials together, and use some mud to keep it all in place.



Try weaving your nest with two fingers, like a bird's beak!

4

When you've finished, show your nests to each other. Would eggs be snug and cosy? How strong is your nest? How many chocolate eggs you can fit inside?



5

Consider dismantling your nests and leave the materials for real birds to pick up and reuse – try wedging them into shrubs!

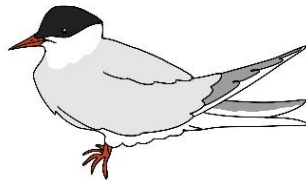


Bird Nest Architects – Activity sheet

Match the **bird to its nesting habitat** and then match the **bird to what it uses to build its nest!**

Can you have a think about how well protected some of these nests are? What issues might they face?

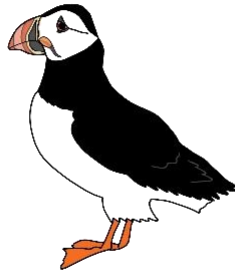
Rocky cliffs



Arctic Tern

Twigs

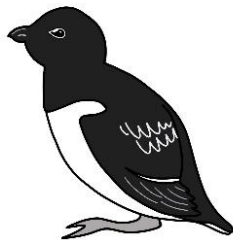
Tree



Puffin

Pebbles

Underground
burrow



Little Auk

Sand

Beach



Little Egret

Mud

Bird Nest Architects – Answer sheet

- Puffin – underground burrow – mud
- Arctic tern – beaches – sand
- Little auk – rocky cliffs – pebbles
- Little egret – trees – twigs

