



 Mass Audubon

April Vacation Virtual Camp

Tuesday – Spring is for the Birds!
Grades K to 2

BUILD A BIRD NEST

What you Need

Natural Materials: Sticks, logs, leaves, flowers, etc.

Clean Recycled Materials: Egg cartons, boxes, plastic containers, newspaper, etc.

A box/container for your bird nest if making a small nest.

Other materials: pillows, towels, books, chairs, if you are making a large nest.

Staying Safe

Be sure that when gathering materials, you are not gathering poison ivy or stinging nettle.

Ask for help from an adult for cutting and gluing if needed.

Jump Start the Exploration

Have you ever seen a bird nest up close?

What materials was it made of?

Did you find any string or plastic in the bird's nest?

How would you build a nest if you were a bird?

Each species of bird makes its own sort of nest. The way each bird makes its nest is unique to the resources that bird has available. Birds make a new nest every year. Some birds will come back to the same spot while others will find different spots to nest in every year.

[Robins](#) make great nests! A robin's nest will have a layer of mud inside of nest! Why do you think they might use mud? The mud helps the robin keep together all the materials it finds to build with. It acts like cement in the nest. When do you think birds build their nests? In the spring. Springtime is usually a very rainy time of year so there is plenty of mud around.

[Baltimore Orioles](#) make woven hanging nests. A Baltimore Oriole nest is lightly colored and looks like a hammock. How do you think they weave it together? With their beaks! You might see some fishing line or string in the nest. Birds are great recyclers since they often use things that have been thrown out by humans, like yarn or string or fishing line, as a part of their nest. Do you think fishing line is good for birds? No – they can easily get tangled in it.

DIRECTIONS

Nest Building

1. Close your eyes, and pretend that you are turning into a bird. Your nose and mouth combine to make a beak. Your arms are growing long beautiful feathers in your favorite color. You are starting to grow a tail. You have now turned into a bird! Since it is spring, you will need to find a place to raise your family.
2. Where do birds raise their babies? In nests! You will need to build a nest. What materials will you need to build a nest?
3. Find a grown-up and go on a search for materials to build your nest. Your nest can be as big or small as you want. You can find materials for your nest outside. You could collect sticks, leaves, flowers, or more. Inside, you can find materials like egg cartons, boxes, yarn, or other recycling. It's your nest, you pick what you want to build it out of.
4. Next, find a place to build your nest. You could build it inside or outside. Your nest could be big enough to fit yourself and your family or small, just to fit eggs. Take time to build your nest and design it in a way that you like.
5. Once you have built your nest, take some time to enjoy it. You could pretend you're a bird in their nest and play protect the egg. Do you have any other bird friends or other animals that could visit?
6. You could also create eggs for your nest. You could make them out of clay, or maybe find rocks outside you could use as eggs. You could paint rocks and design your own eggs for your nest.



Capture the Egg

1. Assign one person to be the mother bird, one person to be the protector bird and everyone else is a predator.
2. The mother bird sits in the nest with the egg while the protector bird stands outside of the nest.
3. The predators will attempt to sneak up and take the egg from the nest without getting tagged by the protector bird.
4. The mother bird cannot move from the nest or tag the predators, but can make the egg hard to get.
5. If a predator is tagged, they must sit down until every predator is sitting and the game resets.
6. The predator cannot tag the protector bird.
7. If a predator gets the egg then the predator wins and takes a turn as the mother bird or the protector bird for the next round.

Talk About Your Learning

What did you learn about making nests?

Where do you think we should look for nests outside?

What parts of their bodies do they use to build the nest?

Why do you think birds build nests?

Do you think there are birds that don't make nests?

Additional Resources

[Mama Built a Little Nest](#) by Jennifer Ward

BBC Home Making: [Weaver Bird Builds a Nest](#)

PBS: [What Are Nests Made Of?](#)