



Build a Bird “Nest”

Bird nests are amazing feats of engineering! Imagine building LEGO sets with only your feet and mouth! Pretend to be a bird and make a “nest” for you and your friends.

WHAT YOU’LL NEED

- Natural materials such as grass, sticks, mud etc. Please don’t take branches or leaves off of living trees
- Man-made items such as paper, string, yarn, and glue
- Paper and pencil to sketch your nest
- A space to build your nest. Small ones can be done indoors, larger ones should be built outdoors. Get permission if you’re going to build a really big nest.
- Some patience. Nest building can be amazingly fun! It can also take some time to get it to look the way you want it to.
- Optional: gloves
- Optional: a picture of a real bird nest for reference

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Gather your materials.
2. Find your space. If indoors, the floor or a table work well.
3. Make a drawing of the nest you want to build.
4. Start weaving your materials into a circular or oval shape. Don’t forget the bottom! Starting with larger materials like sticks helps you build the frame and then you can add the smaller more flexible material like grasses or hay. See next page for a photo tutorial.
5. Some birds use mud to help hold their nest together. You could use glue as well.
6. Experiment with different techniques and materials. And as long as your nest looks nest-ish, you are doing well.



STEP-BY-STEP PHOTO GUIDE

Line up your initial sticks. Begin over-under wrapping small, flexible sticks or grass around your initial sticks. You can use some yarn too. Continue to add more sticks or grass to begin to shape the nest.



You can add sticks or grass by simply sticking one end of your material into the nest and then wrap and tuck. Begin to make the nest more round in shape. Do a little trimming and add your egg. Compare to the real thing.

