



Build Your Own Bird's Nest

ACTIVITY

When it comes to creating a comfortable and safe home from materials in the surrounding environment, birds are one of nature's experts. Create your own nest using supplies found right in your own backyard, just like a bird!



What you'll need:

- Bucket or large bowl
- Tray or pan
- Sticks and twigs
- Grass
- Leaves
- Mud
- Feathers (optional; only if available)



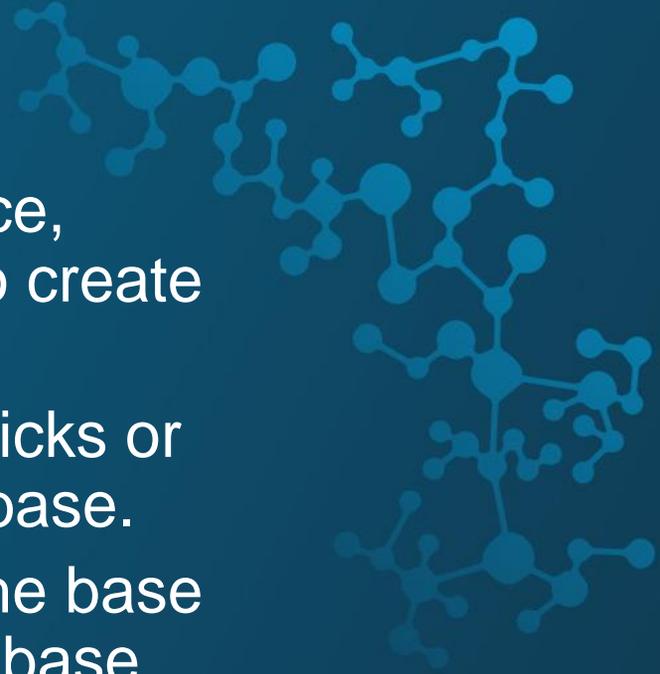
Directions:

1. With the bucket, go to your backyard or a local park to gather supplies.
2. Collect building materials such as grass, leaves, twigs, feathers or other items that can add structure to your nest.



Directions:

3. Using a tray as your building surface, arrange sticks or twigs in a circle to create the base of the nest.
4. Line the interior of the circle with sticks or twigs to add more structure to the base.
5. Gently pack mud and leaves into the base and allow to dry – this will hold the base together.



Directions:

6. Place grass and leaves in the center to create a soft, padded area.
7. "Test" your nest to see how well it will stay together. Can it hold an egg (or small stone) or does it fall apart? *If it falls apart, what can you change to make it sturdier?*



What did you learn?

You might find that building a bird nest is harder than you thought it would be! If you only used dry materials, such as sticks or grass, your nest probably didn't stay together very well. You can make your nest much sturdier by weaving the materials together (like a basket) or using mud as a "glue" to stick the pieces together. Now isn't it even more impressive that birds can build such sturdy nest homes entirely on their own – with no hands?!

