

Nests



Birds build nests so they have a place where they can lay their eggs and incubate them until they hatch. Incubate means to keep the eggs warm and safe so that the baby birds can grow inside.

Big nests

The grand champion nest-builder is... the bald eagle! Most bald eagle nests are 5 to 6 feet wide and 2 to 4 feet tall. Nest construction can take three months. Eagles typically use the same nest year after year, adding to it each season.



Small Nests



Hummingbirds, the smallest birds, make the smallest nests. Hummingbirds build using plants, soft materials and spider webs to hold it all together. Hummingbirds usually lay a pair of eggs the size of black beans inside a nest about the size of a quarter.

Ground Nests

Beach nesting birds lay eggs in shallow bowls scraped out in the sand. Many of these eggs are camouflaged so no one can find them. Eggs are often speckled and match the sand around them.

Sometimes these birds will line the shallow scrape with shells or sand to add to the camouflage.



Your Nest

Now it's your turn! Go outside and gather some materials for your nest. Think about where your nest will be, what it will be made out of, and how it will all stick together.

- ▶ Moss
- ▶ Lichen
- ▶ Twig
- ▶ Spider's web
- ▶ Dried leaf
- ▶ Forked stick
- ▶ Tree sap
- ▶ Animal fur
- ▶ Dead Grass
- ▶ Feathers
- ▶ Mud
- ▶ Cottony fluff
- ▶ Tree Bark
- ▶ Pine Needles

When you have your materials, put together your nest. Think about how your eggs will stay inside and stay cozy