

How to Build a Bird Nest

Use natural materials found in your yard or local green space to mimic the process of building a bird nest to hold eggs and baby birds. Although, this nest will just be for you and can be a nice decorative piece, it is fun to try your hand at creating something that birds do every year, with only the use of their beaks! Before you start, we encourage you to do some research on bird nests, and the requirements for different bird species, or you can jump right in, get creative and explore your space to see what materials might be available to birds in your backyard!

Link to Instructional Video: <https://youtu.be/pYwSr3q1suE>

Materials:

- Collect leaves, twigs, cotton from cottonwood, pine needles, dog fur, horsehair, down feathers, dried grasses and any natural material that would be available to a bird.
- Paper plate to build on
- 2 Eggs

Directions:

1. (Optional) Conduct research about nests you might want to recreate including:
 - The sizes of nests to fit the bird species you are interested in
 - Materials used by different birds to build their nests
 - Locations that different birds use for their nests and why they choose these spots
2. Pretend that you are a bird and it is time for you to prepare a nest for your young.
3. Using the paper plate, create a nest.
 - Remember these nests need to be sturdy enough to hold eggs and eventually live birds
 - Weaving the materials together, so they do not fall apart, is important.
 - Nests should be layered with the softest part in the center of the completed nest to safely hold eggs and hug any baby birds.
4. Remember, it is not always easy to build a nest, and birds do all of this with their beaks!

