

Birds are Brilliant Builders



Birds are busy this time of year singing and constructing. Discover what amazing architects and builders they are and remember they only have a beak and two feet as tools!

Who? Nursery to Yr 6 - This activity is fun for all the family with separate follow-up ideas for different ages and abilities. **NB never go near a birds' nest during the spring!**

You will you need?

- A peg each
- A natural environment, garden, park or woods
- Building materials - moss, leaves, grass, twigs, hair, mud are just a few suggestions.

BIG QUESTION - WHY
DO BIRDS BUILD NESTS
IN SPRING?

Nest making

Different species of birds have particular 'grand designs' and have favourite building materials which they often adapt depending on the local materials available. A Red Kite nest was once found lined with underwear it has stolen from a washing line! So, can you build a nest? Either with your family or on your own use a peg to collect as many of the natural materials from the list above. Then, try and weave them together, thrushes and black birds like to use mud to make a solid base, whereas pigeons just use sticks and produce quite messy nests.

What next?

Can you suggest what birds might like your nest as their home? Describe the materials in your nest. why are they good? Eg. moss - soft and comfortable. Design an estate agent brochure for your nest to encourage birds to live in it.



Look at our '*Learning Shoots*' for more activities



Learning Links – N/C Science, English, Art and Technology



Five ways to wellbeing – Keep active, take notice, connect with nature



Web links –

Identifying nests <https://www.countrylife.co.uk/country-life/howto-identify-birdnests-70904>

Amazing clip from David Attenborough – Did you know birds could sew?

<https://uk.video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=birds+nests#id=0&vid=fc163aa9708929f942b46f0ddd06f80a&action=click>

The most amazing nests <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20150307-the-16-mostamazing-bird-nests>

Teachers Guide

Learning Shoots

What further learning or experiences can follow this activity:

1. *Join the RSPB* – https://www.rspb.org.uk/join-and-donate/join-asafamily/?utm_source=bing&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=RSPB+Brand+-+ExactRSPB+Head+Terms+Exact&utm_term=rspb+uk
2. *Find out about the most WEIRD and WONDERFUL nests* – look at our weblink suggestions above to see birds in action camouflaging their nests, find out about the 16 most amazing nests and discover how British Birds build their nests.
3. *Find out about BEAKS for feeding* – (all & yr6) This is a great activity to understand how different birds have adapted differently to enable them to obtain their favourite food. You will need some normal household items (to represent the beaks and some food samples) then follow the instructions for the bird beak experiment. <http://www.blessedbeyondadoubt.com/bird-beak-experiment/>

This link will give a good example of the range of beaks and what food they are suited for. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:BirdBeaksA.svg>

4. *Make bird feeders* – Here are some links to examples of bird feeders you can easily make at home.
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/feed-the-birds/>
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/make-a-bird-feeder-from-recycled-materials>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/makes/bird-feeder?collection=easy-craft-activities-for-kids>

5. **Birds have hollow bones** –(yr3) Quick experiment to demonstrate how hollow doesn't mean they are not strong. You just paper plate and cardboard tubes and some pennies or small objects. <https://www.education.com/activity/article/bone-strength/> Short video on hollow bones and evolution of birds (yr 6)

<https://uk.video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=bird+skeletons+for+year+3#id=5&vid=fb6ec0f4058d194dbce595be8b02364f&action=click>

6. **EYFS and birds** – songs, crafts and activities <https://www.childfun.com/themes/animals/birds/>

7. **Bird lifecycle** – Video of the bird's lifecycle

<https://uk.video.search.yahoo.com/search/video; ylt=AwrJS5cZz69eSysAgk4M34IQ; ylu=X3oDMTBybDA1bGNhBGN>

<vbG8DaXlyBHBvcwMyBHZ0aWQDBHNIYwNzYw-->

[?p=bird+life+cycle&fr=mcafee#id=11&vid=03c29d1fe80d10d714d563eb781eac60&action=view](p=bird+life+cycle&fr=mcafee#id=11&vid=03c29d1fe80d10d714d563eb781eac60&action=view)

<https://sciencing.com/bird-life-cycles-5291151.html>

8. **Identifying birds** – lovely online key, so you will need download the app before heading out

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/>

ID sheets – these are great for identifying birds when out and about.

<https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/images/Downloads/spotters/crows%20and%20other%20black%20birds.pdf>

<https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/images/Downloads/spotters/male%20and%20female%20birds.pdf>

https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/images/Downloads/spotters/finches_illustrated_spotter.pdf

<https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/images/Downloads/spotters/farmland%20bird%20detective.pdf>

<https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/images/Downloads/spotters/garden%20bird%20detective.pdf>

9. **Make a garden bird hide** [http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-](http://7474fab53f1b6ee92458-8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/BIRDHIDE.jpg)

<8f3ac932bad207a00c83e77eaae8d15c.r12.cf1.rackcdn.com/BIRDHIDE.jpg>

Learning Links

EYFS – Knowledge and understanding of the world, physical development fine motor skills.

Science

Year 1 – Animals, including humans identifying animals, Everyday materials – nest materials. Seasonal change

Year 2 – Living things and habitats identifying and understanding basic needs of animals. Animals including humans looking at young birds.

Year 3 – Animals including humans – Bird Skeletons

Year 4 – Living things and habitats – identifying birds Animals including humans – feeding relationships looking at bird beaks and whether they are predators or prey.

Year 5 – Living things and habitats – lifecycle of a bird

Year 6 – Living things and habitats classifying birds, Evolution – research evolution of birds.

Working Scientifically – Observing, collecting, recording. Identifying and classifying.