



# Build Your Own Bird Nest

## Science & Art

**Recommendations: For students in Grades 1-5. Adult supervision recommended.**

**Purpose:** Practice engineering and design processes based on exploration of natural plant and animal structures.

**Materials:**

- Nesting Materials:
  - Natural: grasses, twigs, reeds, mud, leaves, cattail fluff, etc.
  - Human Made: shredded paper, string, pipe cleaners, cotton, rags, etc.
- Paper and writing utensil

**How It Works:**

**Step 1:** Venture out on a nature walk, keeping an eye out for bird nests.

**Step 2:** When you find a nest look at it carefully without disturbing it. What materials were used to make the nest? What is the shape and design of the nest? Is it a simple pile of moss, an intricately woven basket, or tightly packed with mud?

**Step 3:** Draw the nest. Having to sketch it on paper will help you pay closer attention to details in the materials, shape, and design of the nest.

**Step 4:** Gather materials. You don't have to use the same materials as in the nest you sketched, but you want to try to replicate it as closely as possible, go for it!

**Step 5:** Now it's time to build your own! You can build inside or outside. For an added challenge when you are finished, try to balance your nest on a tree branch or somewhere else off the ground and return each day to see how your nest withstands elements like rain and wind.

**Conclusion:**

With a greater appreciation for hardworking birds and the intricate designs of their nests, you can now explore further. Try finding different types of bird's nests (*see resources below*) for more observation and design. There are also other animals that make nests such as squirrels, rabbits,

bees, etc. You can even consider coming up with your own design and build a kid size nest outside with natural materials or inside using items found in your bedroom!

**Resources:**

**Cup nest**



**Adherent nest**



**Platform nests**



**Earth-hole nest**



**Ground and mound nest**



**Scrape nest**

