



Birds

Make a nest a home

Age: 7-14

Topic: Art and design

Time: 1-2 hours

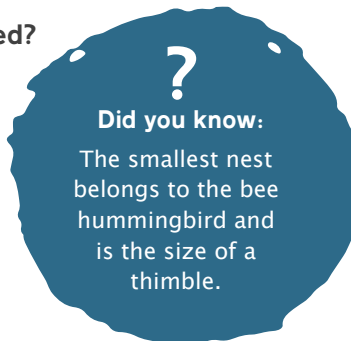


What should learners already know?

- Birds lay eggs and raise their young in nests.
- This activity builds on the 'Bird species discovery' activity.

What equipment will I need?

- Scrap materials (wool, felt, fabrics, paper, cotton etc)
- Natural materials (grass, sticks, feathers, leaves etc); why not collect these from school grounds?



How will learners explore this?

1. Children will be building a cosy nest for their imagined bird species. They will be using scrap materials and natural materials from around their school grounds.
2. Nests are important as they are a place for birds to raise their young, providing shelter from weather and predators.
3. Encourage children to think about what their imagined species will need from the nest. How big is the bird? What environment does the bird live in, and what materials might it find? Where does it shelter; is it high up in a tree, on a cliff, in a hedge or on the ground?
4. Ask children to consider the structure of the nest before they start building it; they may want to draw the nest before they start making it.
5. Using materials such as grasses and sticks, encourage the children to weave their materials into a nest shape. How do different materials compare when weaving?

How will learners explore this?

- Challenge children by asking them to explain why they have chosen each material for their nest. Why is it important to put some softer materials on the inside of the nest? Why is it important to weave the nest tight?
- Discuss with children the importance of nest site. Why might one species of bird choose to build their nest high up in a tree, while another species chooses to build their nest on the ground? What might some advantages and disadvantages of each approach be?
- It can take a bird many weeks to build a nest. Encourage children to discuss why this is such an important process. What would happen if birds laid their eggs outside of a nest?



If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training

© This activity sheet was created by the Learning through Landscapes Trust. Registered charity no. in England and Wales 803270 and in Scotland SC038890

