

"BUILD A BIRD'S NEST" PROJECT

WITH BUDDY BISON



Most species of birds lay their eggs and care for their young in nests made from foraged sticks, leaves, and twine. These birds carefully weave together different materials using only their beaks and talons so that their nests are strong enough to withstand heavy rains and strong winds.



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Over many years, birds of different species have adapted to create very different types of nests based on their habitat. Cliff swallows, for example, mold their nests using mostly gathered mud pellets (see left image).

On the other hand, Hummingbirds build their nest from small plant matter and spider silk (see below) so that the nest can expand as the young grow.

BUILD YOUR OWN BIRD'S NEST

1. Go outside and take a look at the materials available in your environment. What kind of nest would a bird near you make? Would it be made of twigs and leaves or mostly mud? What else might you be able to use?
2. Gather materials to create a nest. What will hold the materials together? Birds aren't able to use glue or tape, so try to imagine how a bird might hold different items together.
3. Choose a place for your nest. Will it be high on the branch of a tree or under a bush on the ground?
4. Create your nest and share your creation with friends or family.
5. Test the durability of your nest by pouring the water cup over it. Does it hold together?



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MATERIALS

- Natural materials
- Cup/container of water

