



Nesting Bird

Overview: Many birds build nests in Spring to lay eggs and raise their young. Students will create a collage of a nesting bird.

Subjects: Science and Art

Grade: PreK-2

Length: Moderate

Procedure:

1. Provide students with information on birds, focusing on backyard visitors.
2. Using a book about birds or individual pictures of them, have students identify birds that they've seen in their neighborhood. Ask them where they've seen them, or what the birds were doing.

Example: "I think that's a bluebird. I saw one in my pine tree.."

3. Explain that birds build nests in branches, in holes, or on the ground. We'll be making our own bird in it's nest.
4. Each student should have a sheet of construction paper. With crayons, they should draw a tree branch, or a tree trunk with a branch across the middle of the page.
5. Students can glue down four to six strips of paper somewhere on the branch.
6. Glue down the bird body in the middle of the nest.
7. Glue the wing and the head down in the proper location.
8. Glue four to six strips of paper over the body, at the bottom. This will give depth to the nest (twigs behind and in front of the bird).
9. Students can decorate their bird with eyes, extra feathers, or drawing in other birds in the background.

Extension:

Certain birds build nests out of particular materials. If you would like to make the selection of colors more specific, we suggest the student pick a bird, and then the parts that match. We have some suggestions for some favorite birds:

Oriole: Orange/Yellow body, Black head, Black wing, Black beak

Oriole Nest material: white and yellow strips in a bag shape (nests hang and are made out of plant fibers, string, and hair)

Bluebird: Orange body, Blue head, blue wing, Black beak

Bluebird Nest: orange and brown strips, in the tree trunk (nests are in hollows, made of twigs and pine needles)

Robin: Red body, Black Head, Black Wing, Yellow Beak

Robin Nest: orange, brown and yellow strips, near the end of the branch (nests are untidy, and made of grasses, twigs, string, and anything the bird can find)

Hummingbird: White Body, Green Wing, Green Head, Black Beak

Hummingbird Nest: White and gray/blue strips on a twig (nests are made of lichen and spiderwebs)

Blue Jay: Gray/White Body, Blue Wing, Blue Head, Black Beak

Blue Jay Nest: brown and orange strips, on the branch (made of twigs and grasses)

Crow: all parts black

Crow Nest: Brown and black strips near the top of the tree (nests are large and made of twigs and sticks)

Cardinal: Orange or Red body (F or M), Red Wing, Orange or Red head (F or M), Orange Beak

Cardinal nest: green, brown, yellow strips (nests are made of grasses and twigs)

Goldfinch: Yellow Body, Black Wing, Yellow Head, Yellow Beak

Goldfinch nest: green, yellow and white strips on branch (weeds, grass and spiderwebs)

Sparrow: White Body, Brown Wing, Brown head, Gray/Yellow Beak

Sparrow Nest: Brown and yellow strips (dry grasses in a cup, in bushes)