

A Nest Is Noisy

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE

FIRST CHOICE

Materials: index cards, hole punch, marker, ribbon, nesting materials (yarn, cotton, grass, moss, small strips of cloth)

Create nesting cards by writing the name of each material on an index card. Punch a hole at the top and run a strip of ribbon through it as the hanger. Punch a couple of holes at the bottom to hold nesting material. Let students choose an area outdoors to hang the nesting cards where students can continue to monitor them. Have students check back regularly to see which nesting materials are taken by animals and used most quickly. Have students decide how they want to share the data they collect.



TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, ART

A NEST OF ONE'S OWN

Materials: paper, pencil, markers or crayons

So, what do birds' nests really look like? Go to <http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/> and pick at least two different types of birds to observe on the live cams. Compare and contrast the types of nests you see. Think of a creative way to present your comparison, like a model or a poster.

ENGINEERING, SCIENCE

NEST CHALLENGE

Materials: items from nature (sticks, leaves, pine needles, etc.), large jelly beans, bird's nest (optional)

If possible, let students observe a real bird's nest—make sure not to disturb any nests actively being used by birds! Have students gather natural materials. Using only the materials found in nature, students should work in pairs to construct a nest that can hold four eggs (jelly beans). Afterward,

ask the following questions: What was the biggest challenge with this construction project?

What material was the most useful?

The most difficult? Explain. How would building a nest be different if you were a bird?

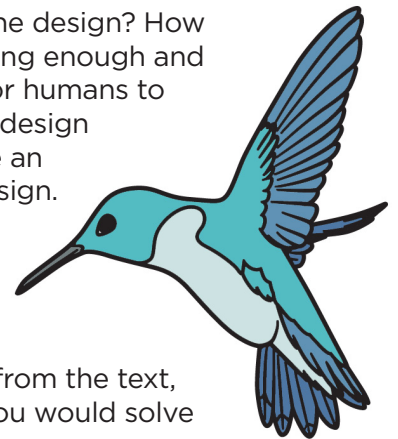


ART, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING

FOR THE BIRDS?

Materials: paper, markers or crayons, scrap or natural materials (optional)

The text introduced us to many types of nests for animals, but have you ever seen a nest built for humans? Check out http://bigsurspiritgarden.com/Spirit_Garden_/Spirit_Nests.html and see one artist's process for creating human nests. After viewing, put on your artist hat and design your own nest for humans. Would it look like a bird's nest? Why or why not? What other elements would you bring into the design? How would you make it strong enough and comfortable enough for humans to sit in? Sketch out your design or build a model. Write an explanation of your design.



MATH

HOW MANY?

Using the information from the text, solve or explain how you would solve the following:

- ◆ How many bee hummingbirds' nests would it take to fill the same amount of space as the dusky scrubfowl's nest?
- ◆ Compare the size of the bee hummingbird's nest to the dusty scrubfowl's nest by drawing a scale model and writing out a percentage or fraction statement.



Reading Is Fundamental