

Bird Nests Reading

Grades 1st and 2nd (read aloud to class)

A nest is a structure a bird builds to hold their eggs, providing a safe place to raise their young. Nests keep birds protected from the weather and away from predators who may want to eat them. Many nest builders sit on their eggs to keep them warm so they can develop and hatch. Did you know that other animals, like rabbits and squirrels, make nests too?

What materials have you seen birds use to make nests? Plants are the most common material birds use for nest building like twigs, leaves, and branches. There are also bird species who use fur, feathers, mud, spider webs, and even trash. Other birds, like flamingos, use their saliva to help hold their nests together.

Birds make nests in many different ways. “Sculpting” is when birds remove material from the ground, like dirt, to make a little bowl-shaped nesting spot. “Assembly” is another technique that birds use by gathering and arranging materials to create a nest. It can take a lot of time and energy for birds to transport nesting materials. Usually, birds collect the supplies they need close by to where they are building their nest. Birds who weave have the most elaborate nests. They collect strands of grass and carefully and tie it into knots or braids.

Sometimes birds will find a home like a hole in a rock, tree, or building. Nests can be found high up in trees, on the ground, and even under the ground. There are species of birds who even lay their eggs directly onto rock ledges or dirt without doing anything at all. Birds usually choose whatever site in their environment best protects their nest. If you are lucky enough to find a nest, it is important to leave it alone in case it is still in use.