

LONGWOOD GARDENS

Design a Bird Nest

Materials Needed

- Net fabric pieces cut in 6" squares (1 / student)
- Nest building materials
 - Suggested materials: small twigs, leaves, straw, grass cuttings. Avoid human hair, yarn, dryer lint. For a complete list of nest building materials see:
<https://www.audubon.org/news/what-nesting-materials-are-safe-birds>
- Stapler
- Recycled / upcycled materials
- Plastic egg (1 / student)
- Arts and crafts supplies (including glue and scissors)

Directions

- Not all birds are nest builders. Some birds nest in holes in trees or on the ground. Nests can not only be found in trees, but also in shrubs, on the ground, in barns, or other places. Different birds have different ways of nesting. Nests can be made out of various materials and come in all shapes and sizes. Birds build nests to protect their young.
- You can make little "bags" of nesting materials to help birds build their nests.
 - Take a square piece of net fabric. Lay the square on a table.
 - Choose a small amount of nest building supplies and place them on the square of netting.
 - Fold up the corners of the netting and staple at the top to essentially create a little "bag" of nest building materials.
 - Cut a few small holes into the "bag" so the birds can access the materials and take out what they want.
 - Hang the "bag" of supplies from a tree branch, on a fence post or lay it on the ground. In the coming weeks, be on the lookout for birds that might visit the "bag" and check the area to see if those nest materials were used.
- Using recycled and upcycled materials students will pretend to be a bird and build a nest to lay an egg.
 - Give each student a plastic egg and access to the recycled / upcycled and arts and crafts materials.
 - Students should use their creativity to build a bird nest to protect that will protect an egg.

