

# The Best Nest (Pre-K)

## Science and Language Arts

**Summary:** Students study the nesting needs and habitats of birds, provide the community with an informative display about the nesting needs of birds, construct and maintain nesting stations for birds on the school campus.

### Service and Learning Activities

**Preparation:** Ask students to describe a bird nest. Ask why birds need a nest. Read *A Nest Full of Eggs*, by Priscilla Belz Jenkins. Read other books about birds, and show students photographs that depict area birds. Invite a speaker from the Audubon Society, or take a field trip to a local bird sanctuary. Discuss importance of nests for birds. Show students boxes of supplies containing man-made materials that can also be used as nesting items: hair, string, yarn, etc.

**Action:** Groups of students build nests on cardboard squares. Each group shares their nests with the other groups. Discuss ideas for providing needed materials. Ask parents to send supplies from the list generated by the students. Students construct nesting stations containing supplies for birds to use in building nests.

**Reflection:** Create a chart: Making a nest is easy, making a nest is hard. Students place stickers on the side of the chart that agrees with their opinions. Ask students how we can help birds build nests. Students observe and share results of birds' use of stations. How could this project be improved? What are some next steps? What were the greatest challenges in doing this project? What impact(s) did the project have on those serving and served?

**Demonstration:** Display student nests in media center, local library, city hall, local environmental center, etc., and give presentations to peers or pre-schoolers about the importance of nests. Include chart of student ideas outlining the importance of nests for birds. Students can also create and present poems, public service announcements, songs, artwork, lessons, videos, skits, displays, or murals to teach other students or the larger community about the project, the need(s) it addresses, and the impact of their efforts.

### Standards

**Science:** The student  
SC.G.1.1 Understands the competitive, interdependent, cyclic nature of living things in the environment.

**Language Arts:** The student  
LA.C.1.1 Uses listening strategies effectively.  
LA.C.2.1 Uses viewing strategies effectively.  
LA.C.3.1 Uses speaking strategies effectively.  
LA.E.2.1 Responds critically to fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama.

**Visual Arts:** The student  
VA.A.1.1 Understands and applies media, techniques, and processes.

### Academic Objectives

- Describe a bird nest and its purpose
- Create a plan to help educate community about bird's needs
- Develop a plan to collect items for birds' nests
- Learn how to construct and maintain a nesting station

**Assessment(s):** Nests, nesting plan, response to stories and books

### Service Objectives

- Provide the community with an informative display about the nesting needs of birds
- Construct and maintain nesting stations for birds on the school campus

**Assessment(s):** Supplies collected were appropriate and used by birds