

Science V9/S1: Bird Nests

Birds live in nests. Nests help keep eggs safe and warm. Birds build nests to avoid predators (like snakes) and protect themselves from bad weather.



Nests are built in all shapes and sizes. Some birds build nests on the ground. Other birds build their nests up high in trees. It's more difficult to make a nest the higher it is. Some types of penguins don't use nests at all and sit on top of their eggs. Woodpeckers cut nests out of trees using their strong beaks.



Nests are created using objects found around the bird. These include sticks, leaves, grass, and mud. Some birds dig into cliffs. Other birds don't make the nests they live in. Owls, for example, use abandoned nests because it's easier than making their own.



Nests can even be made out of materials found in your home. Try leaving some yarn or wool outside if you want to help the birds in your yard. If you don't have these materials, you can still help by gathering sticks, leaves, and grass into easy-to-find piles. Whatever you choose to do, make sure the materials you use are safe for birds.