



Project Exploration creates transformative learning opportunities for youth underrepresented in the sciences --particularly students of color and girls -- by equipping them with the skills, practices, and mindset needed for a lifelong pursuit of learning. STEM@Home makes activities around science, technology, engineering, and math accessible and fun to do at home. This STEMbook activity, resources, and more are available at www.projectexploration.org/stemathome.

In this activity, you will:

help birds build their nests by gathering materials for them to use! You will observe the birds in your neighborhood and use a field guide to help identify them.



Supplies Required:

- Pencil
- Paper
- Field Guide
- Dried leaves or grass
- Twigs
- Strips of cloth
- Hair from a brush
- Pieces of newspaper
- Optional: Binoculars

Video

Learn more about birds' nests here: <https://tinyurl.com/vju4e7l>

Overview

Bird watchers observe wild birds in their natural habitat and learn to identify them and understand what they are doing. There are over 800 species of birds in North America and it is very easy to find at least 100 species in any part of the country. Bird watching is not only limited to a certain environment, but is something that can be done anywhere, even your own backyard! Spring is a great time for bird lovers. Now is the time when they return to your neighborhood from their winter homes down south and start building nests and raising their babies. Most people know that a great way to attract more birds to your yard is to put out birdseed, but you can also help out your local birds by putting out nesting materials for them!



Instructions

1. With adult supervision, gather nesting materials.
2. Find a place in your backyard on the grass, or in front of your home, to put all the nesting materials.
3. Look up in the trees and in any puddles of water to see if you spot any birds! They'll be your first customers for nesting materials!
4. Quietly, and without disturbing the organisms, draw any birds that you see. What colors are the birds? What size is the bird? Record your observations.
5. You can also record other animals you see while you're bird watching.
6. Use the field guides to help you identify the birds you see:
Common Illinois Summer Birds: <https://tinyurl.com/r9szffe>
Common Illinois Spring and Summer Wildlife: <https://tinyurl.com/v7eg3nw>

Additional Resources

Think About It! What was your favorite bird? Do more research to discover more facts! Why do you think the birds enjoy the nesting materials you chose? How were the other organisms behaving in your neighborhood? Was every organism easy to spot? Or did any have camouflage?

1. Listen to peaceful bird songs while inside: <https://tinyurl.com/rymt456>
2. More bird-friendly nesting material ideas: <https://tinyurl.com/r4ymqzs>
3. How-To on spotting nests: <https://tinyurl.com/rffbnap>

Share It Out

Share on social media: record a video of your sharing your observations and what you learned about the birds! Take a picture of your nest and share it with your friends.

Use the hashtags:

#BirdWatching
#ProjectExploration
#StemAtHome

Share via PE's website: Students who complete STEM@home activities and share what they learned with the PE team via our website will earn points which can be traded in for cash prizes at the Explore Store. Your project number is 306. Learn more at www.projectexploration.org/explore-store

Join PE's character contest!

Design a STEM character who will lead kids through activities and be featured on our website and in our STEMbooks. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finalists. Learn more at www.projectexploration.org/character-contest.



Call or text us for help: 312-772-6634

www.projectexploration.org