

GRADE 2 SCIENCE: ANIMAL GROWTH & CHANGES

BIRD BUDDIES

OUTCOME

- AN2.1 - Analyze the growth and development of familiar animals, including birds, fish, insects, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals, during their life cycles.
- AN2.3 - Assess the interdependence of humans and animals in natural and constructed environments.

BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

- The life cycle of a bird- egg, hatchling, nestling, fledgling, adult.
- Birds use nests to lay their eggs and raise their babies.
- There are many different kinds of birds' nests- cavity nests, mud nests, floating nests, and more!
- In the spring, baby birds sometimes end up on the ground- help them out by returning to nest. Parents won't abandon babies due to human smell.

ACTIVITY: BIRD NEST

1. Walk in local green space to collect appropriate nest materials- dead twigs, plant fluff, moss, leaves, pine needles, feathers, dry grass (chem free), small strips of bark.
2. Stuff mesh bags with nest building material.
3. Hang with natural fibre on the trunk of a tree or on fence post.
4. Nearby dig up a small dirt patch and add some water to make mud.

MATERIALS

- Container to transport water.
- Hand trowel.
- Reused mesh produce bags
- Natural fiber string/yarn- hemp, burlap.

HEALTH/SAFETY

- Items harmful to birds- **ribbon, yarn, dryer lint, animal fur, string, thread, tinsel, foil, plastic & cloth.** Possibility for entanglement or breathing blockage.
- Talk to children about harmful items not to touch if found (glass, needles).

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

1. What kind of nests do birds in Saskatoon make?
2. What problems might birds face in an urban setting?
3. How can we help birds in our communities?

TOP TIPS

1. Make sure to set up in early spring when birds are busy making nests.
2. Be sure to give nesting birds space to not disturb the families.

EXTENSIONS

1. **ART (CP2.8) & MATH (SS2.3)**- Make 3D nest & egg sculptures.
2. **MATH (SS2.1)**- Measure out the sizes of different nests onto paper, then have students measure with non standard units of measurement.

HOME CONNECTION

- Go on a nest hunt with your family around your neighbourhood. Be sure to keep a respectful distance.

TAKING IT FURTHER

1. **EXPERTS**- Have a bird expert come visit your class! Book a Meewasin Interpreter, or book a presentation from Living Skies Rehabilitation centre.
2. **FIELD TRIPS**- Visit a natural space like the River Valley or Maple Grove to hunt for birds and nests!

DID YOU KNOW?

Meewasin helps support bird science research with its regular bird counts. Learn more here.

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RESOURCES

1. Website- Information on how to help urban wildlife.
2. Video- Life cycle of birds.
3. Website- Cornell Lab of Ornithology- Live feeder bird cams.
5. Artifacts- Saskatoon Zoo Society Bird Box- Book through school resource centre.
6. Books- “An Egg is Quiet” and “A Nest is Noisy” by Dianna Hutts Aston