

Nests Make Nice Shelters

Most birds lay their eggs in a nest. A nest provides shelter and a nice warm place for the parent birds to care for their eggs and chicks. The nest also helps hide the eggs from predators and it protects them from bad weather and storms.



Birds are expert nest **engineers** and they make their nests with lots of different **materials**. Their ability to build nests that support and protect their eggs and chicks is an **adaptation** that has helped them to survive and thrive within their **habitats**. They often use **natural** materials such as twigs, leaves, feathers, grass, and mud to build. But birds will also use any materials that they can find that will help to build a stronger nest. If they live near people, **man-made** materials like paper, plastic, and string are often used along with natural things.

Many birds make nests that are shaped like cups. They weave strands of grass or twigs into a cup shape and then they often line the inside with mud or feathers. Some bird nests are very small like the hummingbirds nest which is often less than one inch across and high. Others, like the bald eagle, make giant nests that can weigh over 5000 pounds.



In this STEM Challenge, your task is to build a **model** nest that can protect and support at least 2 bird eggs. Just like real birds, you can use a combination of natural and man-made materials to build your nest. Good luck with the challenge.