

# Backyard Bird Nests



## Lesson Overview

Students will create a Bird Nest out of Nature items found in their backyard!

**Step One** – What is a Bird Nest

**Step Two** – Nest Material Search

**Step Three** – Build a Nest!

**Step Four** – Place your Nest



## Notes for Parents/Teachers

- This Lesson is based of David Sobel's Seven Principles for Early Childhood and Nature Education.
- **Reference:** Sobel, D. (2008). Childhood and nature: Design principles for educators. Stenhouse Publishers.

### Age Group:

- 4 – 10 years old

### Total Time Needed:

- Approximately 1 Hour

### Materials Needed

- Square piece of Wood and some nails, String/Twine

See more from MOSS Adventure Learning at [moss.uidaho.edu/adventure](https://moss.uidaho.edu/adventure)

## Backyard Bird Nests

### Step 1: What is a Bird Nest?

- Read: *Birds Build Nests* by Elizabeth Raum and/or *Birds, Nests & Eggs* by Mel Boring
- Draw a picture of a bird nest. Go outside, can you spot any birds or bird nests?

### Step 2: Nest Material Search

- What Nest materials can you find outside? Here is a list of **good items to use in building a bird nest**: Yarn cut in small pieces, Human or Horse Hair, Feathers, Grass, Small twigs, Leaves, Sheep's wool, Cattail, Moss, Lichen, Bark strips, Pine Needles, Cotton, Snake skins, Cellophane, Spider silk, or maybe a few very very tiny pieces of Aluminum foil.
- **Refrain from using** dryer lint because laundry detergent and fabric softeners leave unwanted residues that can be harmful to the birds!

### Step 3: Build a Nest!

- There are two options to building a nest, you can have a parent help you hammer some nails in a circle onto a piece of wood, and then weave your materials around the nails. OR you can use string or twine to tie the larger pieces together in a circle.

### Step 4: Place your Nest

- Place your nest in a tree or keep it inside to show to friends and family!



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