

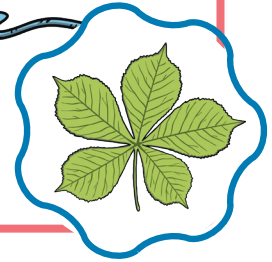
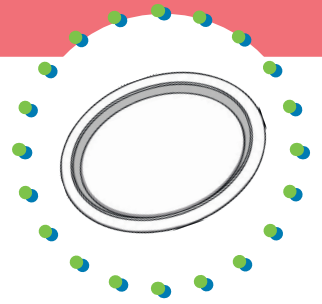
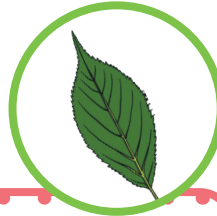
Disclaimer

This resource is provided for informational and educational purposes only. As this resource refers to outdoor activities, outdoor learning, the use of sharp equipment, small items/loose parts which may present a choking risk, you must ensure that an adequate risk assessment is carried out prior to using this resource. Outdoor areas provide great opportunities for playing and learning, but you should always check any environmental risks before taking part in outdoor activities, and only proceed if it is safe to do so. You should ensure that children wash their hands after being outside, and are respectful of nature, taking care of animals and plants. Sensory activities can engage children in their play and learning, but supervising adults should check for allergens and assess any potential risks before an activity and only proceed if it is safe to do so. If you are unsure, always speak to a suitably qualified health professional. Twinkl is not responsible for the health and safety of your group or environment. It is your responsibility to ensure the resource and the information/activity it contains are safe and appropriate to use in your situation.

Build a Nest

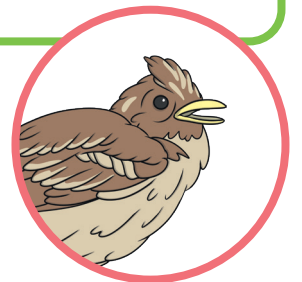
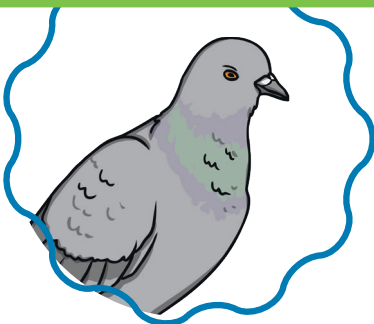
You will need:

- natural materials, e.g. leaves, twigs and moss
- wool or string
- trays or plates



Throughout the year, we have different seasons. In spring, we start to get more hours of daylight and temperatures generally get warmer after the colder months of winter. Spring is often described as a time of 'new life', as it is when many animals have their young and plants start to flower. You may notice different signs of spring. Spring is usually the start of nesting season for birds in the UK – a time when birds start to gather materials and build their nests. A nest is a safe place for a bird to lay its eggs and raise its chicks.

For this activity, you are going to use natural resources, such as leaves, twigs, grass and moss, to create your own nest. Build your nest carefully on the tray/plate. Think about how you can make it stronger and get it to stick together to hold its shape. You could try weaving some of the sticks and using wool/string to join materials.



The Science

- Most birds create their nests in the spring, between February and April. They are usually built by the female.
- Different types of birds create different kinds, sizes and shapes of nests. They mainly use their beaks to carry materials but some birds also use their feet to help hold and shape their nests while building.
- A nest must be soft to protect the eggs, strong and sturdy to survive the wind and rain and well-camouflaged to keep the eggs/young safe from predators.
- Nests can be built in a range of places, including trees, bushes and even parts of buildings. Some birds use a premade nest, for example holes in trees or the ground. Other birds (such as the cuckoo) actually lay their eggs in nests that belong to other birds. This means that they don't have to spend time looking after their own chicks!



Which materials did you use to build your nest?
 What shape is your nest and why did you choose it?
 How strong do you think your nest is?
 Do you think your nest could keep eggs safe?
 Would your nest be camouflaged to hide the eggs from predators?
 What could you do to improve the design of your nest?
 Where do you think would be a good place to put your nest?
 Why do you think birds build nests in spring and not winter?

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