



BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS

Activity Guide

Objectives

- Examine bird homes that can be found in the Mojave Desert.
- Describe that nests are made of a variety of materials like twigs, plant fibers, feathers, trash, spiderwebs, etc.
- Create a model of a bird home based on evidence gathered during activities.

Materials

- Activity Guide accessed through the *Getting Started* link for this topic.
- Field Notebook Activity Pages accessed using the *Field Notebook* link for this topic.
- Bird ID Cards and Video Resources provided using the *Media* link for this topic.
- Assorted household materials to build a model nest. May include: Chenille twists, cotton balls, small strips of paper, feathers, pieces of felt, and commonly found pieces of litter.

Summary of Activities

- **Step #1** Display the "Bird ID Cards" of the Mojave Desert bird species focused on and provided in the *Media* section of this topic. They are Cactus Wren, Hummingbird, Burrowing Owl, Gambel's Quail, and Great Blue Heron. All of these birds can be found in the Mojave Desert and all build nests to suit their needs and adaptations. All nests are meant to provide a safe, comfortable place to lay eggs and rear young. Each nest differs by size (think size of the animal as well as the space needed for their young) and location (depending on the bird's skillset, easiest access, and need to escape predators), but most nests are made from similar materials (think protection and comfort for their young from the elements - just like a human home!).
- **Step #2** Look closely at each and use clues in the photos. See if you can put the birds in order of size from tiny to extra large - Tiny, Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large. Now, complete the activity "Which bird would live in which nest?" located in the *Field Notebook* materials.
- **Step #3** View the "Hummingbird Builds Nest" video located in the *Media* materials. This is an example of a hummingbird making a nest. Watch closely to see if you can discern some of the materials she is using to make her nest. Why would she pick those materials? Are they easily available? Do they serve a specific purpose (i.e protection, insulation, comfort, hold things together)? Complete the activity "What Can Make a Nest?" located in the *Field Notebook* materials.
- **Step #4** Look closely at the "Bird ID" cards found in the *Media* materials. Based on the photos and information on them, complete the activity "Where would you find my nest?" found in the *Field Notebook* materials.
- **Step #5** Build your own nest! Gather appropriate materials from around the house and put them together to make a nest just like our native birds do. Remember: your nest needs to provide enough space, insulation, and protection for baby birds in the spring. Can you do it?
- **Step #6** Share your creation with our Facebook and Instagram community - don't forget to tag us [@getoutdoorsnv!](#)



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