



Birds and their Nests



Picture credit: Hobby Farms

MATERIALS:

Birds gather a variety of natural materials to build their nests. They are fantastic recyclers and up cyclers! Dead and discarded materials, such as twigs, dead leaves, and even animal fur and hair are all eagerly gathered and woven into nests. Nothing is wasted.



Picture credit: nestwatch.org

CONSTRUCTION:

Nests are a masterpiece of careful construction, all done with a beak! Twigs and other strong, sturdy items give strength, whilst surprising materials from mud to spider silk can be used as "glue" to hold everything together. Finally, carefully selected soft, insulating materials, such as moss, feathers and hair, are used to line the nest to keep the delicate eggs, and eventually chicks, safe, secure and warm.

POSITION:

Nests are not built at random. Sites are carefully selected, and vigorously defended, for their perfect positioning. Height from the ground, availability of resources and even the direction they face are all considered. Too much sun, cold winds and rain can all mean the difference between success and failure of the nest, so the position of the nest is vital. Being hidden from predators is also of prime importance, so camouflage is key.



Picture credit: nestwatch.org



Picture credit: The Woodland Trust

The perfect home:

Different species of birds build nests of different sizes, shapes and materials, all dependent on their needs.

Some build nests on the ground, some high in the trees and some even build stretchy, hammock-type nests. Even the entrance holes of some nests are the right size for the bird that builds it.

They really are the perfect home 