

Build-a-Nest
Nightingale's Nest
Nikki Loftin

Program Title: Build-a-Nest

2. Introduction/Purpose of Program : In Nightingale's Nest, Gale builds herself a nest. Readers will create a model or drawing of the nest they imagine she created or a create or draw a nest they would want to live in.

3. Detailed Description of the Program: Participants may approach the task as a research based activity, where different types of bird's nests and construction techniques are evaluated prior to creating their own nest, or from a purely creative activity. Regardless of approach, the anticipated product is a nest of some type, either 2 dimensional (as a flat drawing) or 3 dimensional object. Anticipated time required for research is 30 minutes to 2 hours.

Using the provided reference materials (see 5.) and others located through independent research, participants (as individuals or small groups of 2-3) will brainstorm ideas regarding nest construction and create sketches or prototypes prior to final construction. Anticipated time required for preliminary design is 30 minutes to 1 hour. If desired the program could conclude at this stage.

If time and resources permit, a final full-size version of the nest will be created for judging and display. Anticipated time required is 1-2 hours.

4. Program Related Books to Display or Book Talk

Nightingale's Nest by Nikki Loftin

Books and field guides about birds and bird nests

Examples:

Nature's Sketch Book by Marjolein Bastin

Birds, Nests, and Eggs by Mel Boring

All About Birds: A Kids' Book About Birds by Nicholas Eliot

5. Supplies

Found items from nature that readers gather (sticks, leaves, moss, feathers, etc.)

Other "stick like" objects (drinking straws or popsicle sticks)

Fabric scraps for nest lining

Drawing supplies (paper, pencils, colors, markers, etc.)

Glue

Balls of string or yarn

6. Readers who participate will have their picture taken with their created nest and images will be on display with the product. Host a Creator's Choice award, allowing participants and library patrons to cast a ballot for their favorite nest (or create categories, like Most Comfortable, Most Like to Attract a Real Bird, Largest, Smallest, etc.)

7. Resources

Print

Nightingale's Nest by Nikki Loftin

Books and field guides about birds and bird nests

Examples:

Nature's Sketch Book by Marjolein Bastin

Birds, Nests, and Eggs by Mel Boring

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Websites

PBS Zoom Bird Nest Building Activity (includes materials, directions, and descriptions of projects: <http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/birdsnests.html>)

Wiki How How to Build a Bird's Nest (describes 2 methods, provides illustration) <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Bird-Nest>

Make Like a Bird and Nest:

http://www.education.com/activity/article/like_birds_and_make_nest/

PRBO Conservation through

Science (very detailed and informative) Created by Point Reyes Bird Observatory Education Program:

<http://www.prbo.org/cms/docs/edu/activity4.pdf>