

Make a bird's nest

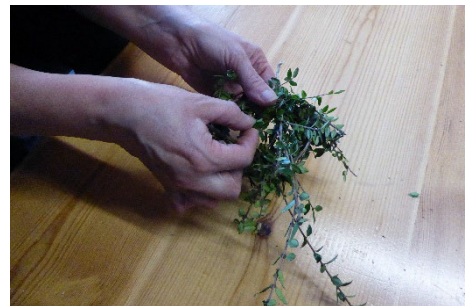
Enter the fascinating world of bird nests and appreciate how birds create these intricate structures so inventively from materials found lying around outside.

What you need

- 4 or 5 lengths of cut foliage, at least 12 inches or 30 cms long, with the leaves on. A good choice is privet or willow.
- Bits of soft material to make the nest 'lining', eg feathers, wool, moss, grass.

How to make a bird's nest

- Take a length of foliage and bend it into a small circle, twisting the stems around each other to hold it all together. It doesn't matter if some bits stick out.
- Keep adding and twisting all the lengths of foliage around the circle until there is no gap in the middle. You can thread some smaller pieces through the circle once the gap is smaller, to make it stronger.
- Put the completed circle on the table or in the palm of one hand. Make a fist and push into the centre of the circle. This imitates how a bird uses its chest to make the nest shape. As you do this it will become more cup shaped.
- Line your nest with the soft bits and pieces you have collected. Keep firming it down as you work the material into the hollow, just as a bird would.



That's it – nest made!

Place it in a hedge, tree or shrub, taking care to think about where it will be well hidden and safe from cats and other interested parties. Wait and see if it gets any new 'owners'.

Follow on activities

- You might like to make a bird to go in your nest. If so, take a look at our [clay bird activity sheet](#).
- Decide what bird your nest is for, perhaps a favourite one or a popular bird you see in the garden, or look up the nests of different birds and choose one to replicate.