

Athlone Education Centre School Challenge

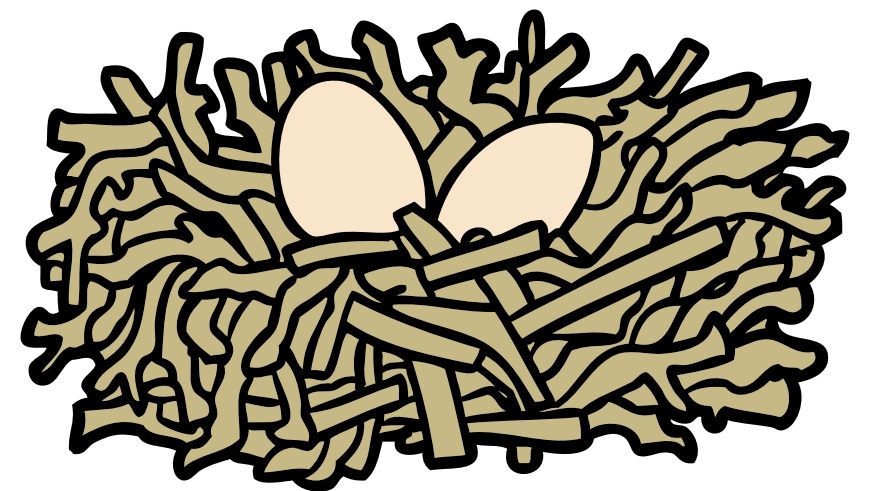
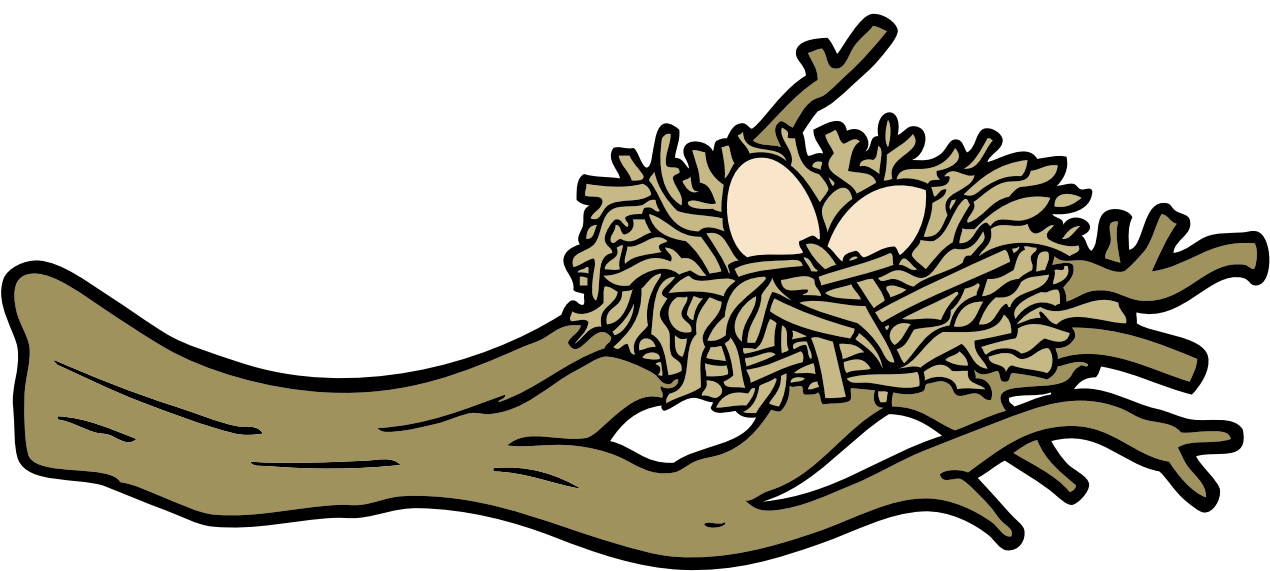
Nest Building Challenge

Birds build their nests in spring and early summer. The nest is used to hold their eggs and as a home for the young birds when they are small and defenceless. Adult birds perch on trees when they need to sleep and only use the nests for their young. Nests are usually bowl-shaped and are made using twigs, hair, feathers, leaves, grass and whatever else the birds can find in their environment. The thrush, swallow, blackbird and house martins use clay in the construction of their nests.



Would you be able to build a nest for a bird?

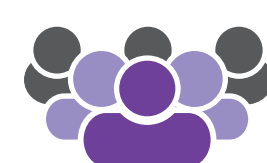
- Gather together the materials that birds use: moss, feathers, wigs, dried grass, leaves, straw, bits of wool, bark from local trees.....
- The completed nest must be durable and able to hold an egg or a golf ball. It must be comfortable and cosy for those little birds and be able to withstand a strong wind when it is shaken about on the branch of the tree.
- How will you test your nest to see if it can withstand a strong wind?



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