

## MODULE 2: WHERE IS MY HOME?

### Making bird nests

This activity should follow on from a general session on birds' nests when children have a chance to look at different nests. Or you could show the Powerpoint presentation on bird nests.

The challenge for the children is to make a robust nest. Children can work in teams to pool their skills to create a nest. The children collect materials using their "beaks" rather than fingers; if this proves too difficult let them use their hands, but point out how clever the birds are to use their beaks. Children can then test their nests to see how strong they are. The activity can be adapted to suit KS1 or KS2 pupils.

#### **Resources needed**

- An outside environment playground, school field or shrubby area.
- Provide some sources of materials such as twigs, grass, leaves, feathers, bits of wool or shredded paper. These can be hung in mesh bags so that pieces can be plucked from them.
- "Beaks" – folded pieces of card or clothes pegs which children use in their hands to pick up and place materials for their nest
- Small bowls to act as moulds

#### **Running the activity**

Prepare the children for working outside.

Divide the children into groups and describe what they are going to do, and give them their "beaks".

Get the children to talk in their groups about

- What do birds use to build nests
- What materials they are going to look for to make their nests and how they are going to use it e.g. do they need different materials outside and inside the nest
- How difficult they think it is going to be.

You can provide extra help by giving small bowls for the children to use as moulds for the nests.

At the end of the nest making session, you can ask the children to consider

- how they compare with real nests.
- what would happen to their nests in rainy or windy weather?
- what could they do to make the nest better?

#### **Possible extension activities**

You could provide a limited range of materials to different groups and afterward compare, so that they can see which is more robust or which is likely to give baby birds the best chance of survival.

Children could use modelling clay to create eggs for their nests.

Children could test the strength of the nests by pouring water on them or putting them in a windy spot.

#### **Health and safety**

Make sure the area is free of unsuitable or dangerous materials.

Children should be suitably dressed for working outdoors.

Wash hands after working outdoors and handling nest building materials.