

Project FOCUS
Best Lessons
FIRST GRADE

Title of Lesson: Bird Nest Building

Theme: Life Science

Unit Number: 6

Unit Name: Animal Planet

Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):

S1L1. Students will investigate the characteristics and basic needs of plants and animals.

b. Identify the basic needs of an animal

4. Shelter

Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):

Habits of Mind

Asks questions

Uses numbers to quantify

Works in a group

Uses tools to measure and view

Looks at how parts of things are needed

Describes and compares using physical attributes

Observes using senses

Draws and describes observations

Content (key terms and topics covered):

Habitats, Shelter, Animals, Birds, Nests

Learning Activity (description in steps)

Abstract:

Details:

Begin the lesson by introducing nests as a type of shelter. Introduce nests as a form of shelter for birds. Bring in pictures of several different birds nests and encourage students to identify different components of the nest they recognize from outside.

Explain that today each student will be creating a nest as shelter for birds. Explain that they will collect items from outside that they can put together to form a nest. Lead the students outside to collect sticks, leaves, grass, pinestraw and other materials.

After coming back inside, complete the nests. Give each student a piece of construction paper to build their nest on and a bottle of glue to stick all the components together.

Materials Needed (type and quantity):

A piece of Construction paper for each student

Bottles of Glue (not glue sticks)

Notes and Tips (general changes, alternative methods, cautions):

When planning this lesson, it is important to note that the weather must be mild enough that students can remain outside for extended periods of time. I would suggest checking the forecast before choosing this lesson for a specific day.

I gave my students a certain area outside that they could explore to find components of their nest. It is very important to watch the students closely because my students had a tendency to explore beyond my given boundaries.

Before each student went inside, I asked him or her to show me what he or she had collected to ensure everyone had collected enough to complete a nest.

While they are working on the nest, make sure they are gluing each piece of their nest down and not simply stacking it on top of each other. If they just stack the pieces on top of each other, the nest will fall apart as soon as you move it.

Sources/References: