



## Earth Month: 30 Activities for 30 Days

### Nest Weavers/Nest Balls

**Objective:** To learn about materials and process birds use to build nests. Learn to recognize bird nests by type. Create a Nest Ball full of materials birds can use for making a nest.

#### Suggested Materials

##### Discussion:

- Video links
- Handout

##### Activity:

- Scissors
- Pinecone
- Pieces of String, yarn, twine
- Dried grasses, the longer the better
- Dryer lint
- Corn husk silk
- Pine needles
- Thin, flexible sticks
- Cotton
- Feathers
- Ribbon
- Hair from your hairbrush

#### Steps:

1) Talk about bird nests. Where and when do you find them? What are their characteristics? How are they built? Have you ever seen a bird making a nest? Encourage sharing of stories.

2) Show video(s) Watch a Weaver Build a Nest in a Single Day and/or American Robin Bird Nest Build

Follow up questions: What did you observe? (Encourage discussion of process, materials, locations.) What supports your observations? Tell us more (dive deep into their observing/experiences/thinking).

3) Hand out sheet about nest identification.

4) Make a Nest Ball to provide nest-building materials for local birds. See photos for reference.

a) Collect materials for Nest Ball. Suggestions provided in materials list, but feel free to innovate.

b) Take your pinecone and string. Wrap string twice around around the middle of the pinecone tightly. Then wrap more loosely.

c) As you loosely wrap the pinecone, insert various pine needles, dried grasses/flowers/natural materials in between the pinecone and the string to secure the materials. Make sure the material is not so secure that birds can't pull them out of your bird nest ball.

d) Once you have several layers of string and material, continue to loosely stuff your bird nest ball with cotton, dryer lint, hair and other fluffy materials. Make sure these materials are easily available and not packed too tightly.

e) Once you are satisfied with the size and shape of your Nest Ball, tie a long piece of string/yarn/ribbon to or around it. You will use this long piece of string to hang your Nest Ball from a tree branch

f) Hang your Nest Ball and watch the birds come to collect! Keep a record of birds you see.