



**WHOSE
NEST
IS THE
BEST?**

POST-SHOW RESOURCE



WHOSE NEST — IS THE BEST? —

This post-show resource contains four engaging activities which reinforce learning about bird nesting behaviours, enhance STEM and motor skills, and social and emotional competencies.

In this resource pack, you will find:

Activity 1: Strong nest challenge

Activity 2: Nest hunt shuffle

Activity 3: Mud mound makers

Activity 4: Egg relay



Activity 1

- STRONG NEST CHALLENGE -

Objective: Hamerkops build large, strong dome-shaped nests in trees to protect their eggs. Explore how to construct a sturdy nest by experimenting with natural materials to create structure and stability.

Instructions:

1. Take your class on a walk to collect natural materials like fallen leaves, twigs, and grass.

2. Challenge students to build a nest that can hold a small object (e.g., a plastic egg or pebble) without collapsing.

3. Test the nest's strength by placing it in a breezy spot or gently shaking the surface it is on.

4. Encourage students to adjust and reinforce their designs to make them stronger.





Activity 2

— NEST HUNT SHUFFLE —

Objective: Fastest feet first! Students play a game of “musical hoops” to mimic how eclectus parrots must quickly search for suitable tree holes during nesting season. This activity enhances listening and gross motor skills while reinforcing learning from the Virtual Show.

Instructions:

1. Scatter hoops around the play area, ensuring there is one fewer hoop than there are number of players.

2. Play music while students move around the hoops, pretending to be eclectus parrots searching for a nesting hole.

3. When the music stops, each student must quickly step into a hoop to claim it as their “nest”. The student that does not manage to find a hoop must stand aside.

4. Remove one hoop after each round and continue playing until only one student remains.





Activity 3

- MUD MOUND MAKERS -

Objective: Experiment with mud consistency to create flamingo mound nests of different shapes and sizes. Engage students' senses to explore which proportion of mud and water creates the sturdiest nest!

Instructions:

1. Provide students with mud and encourage them to shape their own flamingo nests.



2. Adjust the water content in the mud to find the right consistency for a sturdy nest.




3. Experiment with different nest sizes to see which can best hold various plastic eggs.





- EGG RELAY -

Activity 4

 King penguins don't need nests - parents keep their egg safe, warm, and dry by balancing it on their feet, covered under a fold of bare skin called a brood pouch. Both parents take turns to incubate the egg while the other goes hunting at sea.

Objective: Develop balance, coordination, turn-taking and teamwork by mimicking how king penguin parents carefully transfer their egg between their feet without dropping it on the ice!

Instructions:

1. Have students work in groups of two or three. Give each group a ball.

2. Players should balance the ball on their feet without using their hands and carefully transfer it to the next player without dropping it.

3. Vary the game play by challenging your students to

- Transfer the egg between players as many times as possible within one minute.
- Be the fastest group to transfer the egg between all the players in the group.

