

# Avian Adventures

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Grades: Early Childhood (Pre-K)

## Key Words and Definitions

<b>NESTING</b>	The behavior of a bird or other animal building or occupying a nest
<b>HABITAT</b>	The environment where a plant or animal naturally lives and grows

## Pre-Field Trip Activity: Bird Nest

*One 20-minute session; pre-visit*

### Learning Objective

Students will learn about birds and their nests while creating their own nest in an artmaking activity.

### Materials

- Paper scraps of varying colors and sizes
- Bits of yarn/string, scrap plastic bags, any other desired scrap material
- Glue

### Procedure

1. Introduce the activity to the class by showing some images of birds' nests. Ask what the class notices about the nests. What materials do birds use for nesting?
2. Hand out paper scraps, other desired scrap material, glue, and a piece of paper for students to collage on.
3. Ask students to make their own bird nests out of these scrap materials and glue. Just as birds often use anything they can find to help with the construction of their homes, we'll put scrap materials to good use in our artwork.
4. Once the class has finished making their nests, students can hold up their artwork to compare. Which materials were their favorite to use? Do they think birds could have used these same materials for their real nests? Say that on our field trip at Wave Hill, we'll be looking for birds and birds' nests. Let's keep an eye out for bird nesting materials—what might they use to build a nest at Wave Hill?

### Sources

 [Art With Mr. E: Mixed Media Bird Nests: 1st Grade \(artwithmre.com\)](http://artwithmre.com)

## Post-Field Trip Activity: Birdy Says

*One 20-minute session; post-visit*

### Learning Objective

Students will learn about differences in bird behaviors through a movement game.

### Materials

*No materials needed*

## Procedure

1. Explain that we will be playing a version of “Simon Says”, but instead we will be saying “Birdy Says”, using what we learned about the movement and behaviors of birds at Wave Hill to help us.
2. Demonstrate four different movements of Birds, have the class act out the movements along with you. The movements are:
  - Strut like a pigeon (students bob their head as they walk with their hands behind their back)
  - Soar like a hawk (wings spread, body and arms rocking back and forth)
  - Flit like a hummingbird (flapping hands as fast as possible while standing on tiptoes)
  - Step like a robin (students take the biggest step they can)
3. Play “Simon Says” using these movements! You can also have one student stand by your side and help call out movements.

## Sources

 [September\\_Worksheet \(allaboutbirds.org\)](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/September_Worksheet)



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