

# What can we learn about birds from their nests?

**Description:** Students will compare and contrast nests from two different birds and make inferences about the birds' lives based on observations.

**Grade Range** (suggested): 3-5

## **Materials:**

- Bird nest images
- Bird Images
- Graphic organizer or paper and pencil

## **ENGAGE**

1. Ask students what they already know about birds. Where do they live? What do they eat? etc.
2. Ask students to share their ideas about whether all birds eat the same things or live in the same places. Can they think of any examples of different birds eating different things? Can they think of a few different types of places birds live? (Such as in trees or under bridges or in a gutter of a house.)

## **PREPARE TO EXPLORE**

3. Tell students one thing that most birds have in common is that they build nests. Today students will look at the nests of two different Chicago birds, the ruby-throated hummingbird and the American robin.
4. They will compare and contrast the nests of each bird and think about what the nests can tell them about the bird's life.

## **EXPLORE**

5. Show students the images of the hummingbird and robin nests. Have students record in pictures and words what they notice about each bird nest.
6. How are the two nests the same? How are they different?
7. Ask students to share what they think they know about each bird just by looking at its nest? (These might include, how big is the bird? Where does the bird live? What does it use to make its nest, etc.)

## **REFLECT and SHARE**

8. Show students the images of the birds and have them compare the images to what they thought about the bird based on the nest
9. Have students share with each other or someone at home what they learned about each bird and its nest.

## **Extensions and Variations:**

- Have students look for bird nests in trees around their house (or find more images online - <https://artsandculture.google.com/search/asset/?p=chicago-academy-of-sciences-peggy-notebaert-nature-museum&em=m015p6&categoryId=other> or in books) and see what kinds of things about the bird they can learn by looking at the nest.

Bird Nest Images *Imágenes de nidos de pájaros:*  
**American Robin *Petirrojo Americano:***

Egg photo credit: flickr/Paul W CC BY-NC-SA 2.0



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird/*Colibrí Gorgirrubí*** : (Chicago Academy of Sciences specimens photos from Google Arts and Culture:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/rQHnIXJjRkwI0A?childAssetId=EAHHT5AMQ3uNXw>)



1. Record what you notice about each nest in pictures and words.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>American Robin nest</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest</b></p>
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2. Thinking about the two nests:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>How are they SIMILAR?</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>How are they DIFFERENT?</b></p>
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3. What kinds of things can you learn about a bird by looking at its nest?

4. Look at the images of the actual birds on the next page. How are they similar or different from what you expected based on their nests?

1. Escribe lo que notas sobre cada nido en dibujos y palabras.

<p><b>El nido de petirrojo americano</b></p>	<p><b>El nido de colibrí gorgirrubí</b></p>
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2. Escoge dos nidos:

<p><b>¿Cómo son SIMILARES?</b></p>	<p><b>¿Cómo son DIFERENTES?</b></p>
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3. ¿Qué cosas puedes aprender sobre un pájaro mirando su nido?

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4. Mira las imágenes de los pájaros reales en la próxima página. ¿Cómo son similares o diferentes de lo que esperabas en función de sus nidos?

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Bird Images *Imágenes de Pajaros:*

American Robin *petirrojo americano* (Photo credit: Flickr/K Schneider CC BY-NC 2.0)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird *colibrí gorgirrubí* (Photo credit: Flickr/watts photos1 CC BY 2.0)

