

Name: _____

Bird Nests

By Anita Venegas

Did you know that hummingbirds often build their tiny nests using spider silk to soften the nest? Hummingbird nests are the size of a ping-pong ball. The female hummingbirds take all the credit for building the nest, keeping the eggs warm, and feeding the chicks after they hatch. Among eagles, both the male and female birds contribute to building the nest. Using branches and twigs, their nest may be up to 10 feet across. That is the size of a small bedroom!

a platform nest high in the treetops. City birds build a platform nest on concrete bridges or buildings. Platform nests are often repaired and reused year after year by the same pair of birds.

A few species of birds do not build a nest at all. Instead, they lay their eggs in another



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Birds may use mud to shape the nest and make it stronger, while their saliva helps the dry grass and moss on the outside of the nest to stick together.

Not all bird nests look the same. The most common types of nests are cup, cavity, scrape, and platform. Cup nests are most visible during the winter after trees have lost their leaves. The cavity nests are holes in dead or living trees, just the right size for a family of small birds. A scrape nest is one of the easiest to build. It is a shallow hole dug into the ground with a rim just high enough to keep the eggs from rolling away.

Location is the most important factor when building a nest. The place each species chooses must be safe from predators. Large birds, such as eagles and herons, build



platform nest



cup nest



cavity nest

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1. What is the author's purpose for writing the article?
 - a. to inform readers about different types of bird nests
 - b. to inform readers about how different species of birds survive
 - c. to persuade readers to look closely for bird nests when they are on walks
 - d. to teach readers about the different materials birds use to build their nests
2. Write three key details from the text that support the following main idea.

Main Idea: Bird nests are unique to different species of birds and are important to birds' survival.



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3. What is the main idea of the second paragraph in the article?

4. Explain what a "scrape nest" is. Using details from the text, what is the most likely reason that a "scrape nest" got its name?

5. Which text feature would *not* support the information in this text?
 - a. images of different natural materials used in nests
 - b. a chart naming different bird species with a picture of their nest
 - c. a photograph of a scrape nest with a caption underneath
 - d. drawings of hummingbirds, eagles, herons, and cuckoo birds

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The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.



1. _____

c a f r t o

clue: something that actively contributes to something else

2. _____

r v a i t v e



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clue: occurring or appearing frequently

5. _____

r o v p d i e s

clue: gives or supplies

6. _____

v a c t i y

clue: a hole or unfilled space

7. _____

e r c i t d

clue: recognition; acknowledgement

8. _____

i g s a n l

clue: notify; indicate

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In the article, "Bird Nests," you learned about how different species of birds build different types of bird nests. Pick one species of bird and research its type of nest using the internet. Write a paragraph explaining the type of nest this species builds. Be sure to include the materials it uses, the location where the nest is built, and the typical size of the nest. On the back of this page, write the address for the website(s) you use for your research.



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ANSWER KEY

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7. credit

e r c i t d

clue: recognition; acknowledgement

8. signal

i g s a n l

clue: notify; indicate