

Birds And Their Nests

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Like all living beings birds also need shelter to escape from bad weather and enemies. They also need to protect their young ones. All birds reproduce by laying eggs. When they have to lay eggs, they build homes called **nests**. Usually the female or the mother bird sits on the eggs for a few days, the eggs break open and baby birds come out. This is called **hatching**.

Do You Know ?

The ostrich's egg is the largest egg in the world and the humming bird's egg is the smallest egg.



Nest with eggs



Hatching



The chicks that come out of the eggs are usually without feathers. They are as helpless as you were when you were born. Their parents protect them and feed them until they can look after themselves and fly away.

NESTS

After the young birds fly away, the parents also leave the nest. They build a new nest everytime they have to lay eggs.

Birds build nests in such a place where their enemies cannot reach. Most birds build nest in old buildings, trees, ventilators and sometimes in the cover-ups of ceiling fans.



Different birds build different kinds of nests. Most birds use twigs, leaves, thread or cotton to build their nests. Some others use pebbles and mud. Let us read about the nests of a few birds which they build using their beaks.

Tailor Bird's Nest

A tailor bird uses its beak like a needle and sews together using thread and wool. This is the reason that it is called **tailor bird**.



Weaver Bird's Nest

A weaver bird builds a beautiful nest. It ties dry grass and twigs into knots to build a nest. The strong nest hangs down from the branches of a tree. There is a tunnel-like opening at the bottom of the nest through which the bird enters the nest.

Woodpecker's Nest

The woodpecker works hard. It pecks a hole in a tree trunk and lines it with chips of wood. It takes a few weeks to build its nest.



Partridge's Nest

It digs a hole in the ground amongst the plants and lines it with grass, dry leaves etc.

Kingfisher's Nest

The kingfisher burrows a hole on the banks of a river. This hole is its nest.



Penguin's Nest

Penguins build nests out of pebbles. These nests are on the ground.

Vulture's and Eagle's Nests

Vultures and eagles build untidy nests of twigs on high branches.



Cuckoo's Nest

The cuckoo (koel) is a very clever bird. It does not build nest. It lays its eggs in the nest of a crow. The crow looks after the eggs and babies.



CARE FOR YOUNG BIRDS

As soon as the nests are ready, birds lay their eggs. The mother-bird lays hard shelled eggs which hatch after sometime. The eggs are kept warm till they hatch



into young ones. Mother-bird and father-bird keep the eggs warm. When young ones hatch from the eggs, they cannot see or fly. So, they are fed by their parents. The parents also protect them from their enemies. When the baby birds get their feathers and become strong enough, the parents teach them how to fly.

Know the Keywords :

Twigs : Small branch or shot.

Pecks : Strike or pick up with the beak.

Sews : Join with thread repeatedly passed through with a needle.

Point to Remember

- Birds build their nests to lay eggs and raise their young ones.
- Materials like grass, twigs, wool etc. are used to build nests.
- Different kinds of birds build their own kinds of nests in different places.
- The parent birds take care of their young ones by feeding them, keeping them warm and protecting them from enemies.

EXERCISE TIME

A. Multiple choice questions (MCQs).

Tick (✓) the correct option :

1. The _____ egg is the largest egg in the world.

- a. humming bird's b. eagle's c. ostrich's

2. Different birds build different kinds of _____.
- a. buildings b. homes c. nests
3. The _____ works hard.
- a. cuckoo b. hen c. woodpecker
4. The _____ is a very clever bird.
- a. cuckoo b. hen c. duck
5. _____ builds nest out of pebbles.
- a. ostriche b. duck c. penguin

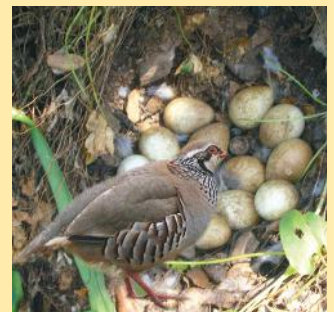
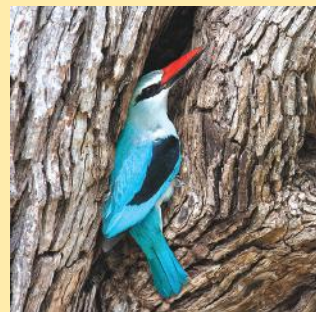
B. Fill in the blanks :

1. Most birds build _____ to lay their _____.
2. The _____ works hard.
3. The _____ burrows a hole on the banks of a river.
4. The cuckoo lays its eggs in the nest of a _____.
5. As soon as the nests are ready, _____ lay their _____.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

1. Like all living beings, birds also need shelter.
2. The chicks that come out of the eggs are usually without legs.
3. Birds build nests in such a place where their enemies cannot reach.
4. A weaver bird builds a beautiful nest.
5. The eggs are kept warm till they hatch into young ones.

D. Look at the pictures of different types of nests. Name the bird which make them.



1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

E. Answer the following questions :

1. Why do birds build nests ?
2. What materials do birds use to build their nests ?
3. Name four places where birds build their nests.
4. How does the weaver bird enter its nest ?
5. How does a woodpecker make its nest ?



Creative Work

- Match the nests to their birds :

1.



2.



3.



4.



- Make a nest using fallen leaves, clay, broken branches, strings etc. Keep it on a tree. See if birds visit it.