

Green lolly stick Building a Nest



1

Find long, flexible plant stems. These will form the main shape of the nest, and are much easier to work with than hard, short twigs. You can use straw, long grass, vines, willow fronds, bendy reeds, or seagrass found outdoors or at a garden supply store. Raffia is another good option, obtainable from a craft supply store.[\[1\]](#)

- If Mexican feather grass grows in your area, grab a clump of it and pull your hand upward to remove a handful of hairy seeds clinging together. Once you have enough seeds, clump them into a ball and make a nest shape by sticking your thumb into it.*



2

***Bend the stems into a loop.** Grab a thick handful of the stems, and bend them into a U shape, adding more stems if necessary to form a full circle. Tie it in place using a piece of string or florist wire. If the plant stems have many little leaves, or if they're wiry and dry, you can even weave them together without using any attachment.*

- If tying the nest together is too hard, you can clip them temporarily in place while waiting for glue to dry.[\[2\]](#) Don't use glue if you plan to keep the nest outdoors.*
- If your fresh-cut plants won't stay in position, try hanging up the bundle in a windy area to dry for 24 hours. Some plant stems are easier to bend when fresh, but grasses and straw benefit from drying.*



3

***Shape the rest of the nest.** Grab a second, smaller handful of stems and shape it into a smaller loop. Wedge this inside the larger loop and push it*

downward to form the base of the loop. Depending on how well the stems fit together and how sturdy you want the nest to be, you may need to use a thread or glue to fasten the two loops together.



4

Decorate with scavenged materials. Real birds sometimes spend days collecting bits and pieces to build a nest. Hopefully you're a little faster, but you can still have fun gathering objects from nature or your craft boxes. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- If you plan to leave the nest outside, only use materials found outdoors, and nothing that could hurt an animal.
- Feathers and pieces of eggshell fit the theme. Be aware that collecting most wild feathers is illegal in the United States, but they are mostly harmless from a disease perspective. [\[3\]](#) [\[4\]](#) [\[5\]](#)
- Look for twigs, leaves, bark, and moss in interesting shapes and colors.
- If the nest is for indoor decoration, you can use bits of string, colored paper shreds, and confetti.

5

Place eggs inside (optional)• Finish your art project by placing eggs or fake eggs inside the nest• You can quickly add marbles or colorful pebbles,

