

STEM ADVENTURE!

Animal Habitat



Welcome to the STEM Adventure!

We will be practicing language arts, science and math skills as we explore the outdoors. Be observers as we discover how animals use their environments to create their habitats. Discover more in the way you learn best with hands-on activities, on-air PBS KIDS programming and online resources. WITF and IUs 12, 13 and 15 wish you happy exploring!

Talk About It

How do animals keep themselves safe in their habitat?

Nests provide safe places for a bird to lay and incubate eggs. As the eggs hatch, the nest provides a safe place for the young birds to develop. Ask your child, "Where do birds build their nests?" Did you know that not all birds build nests? Some lay their eggs in trees, on the ground or even burrowed underground. Ask your child, "What are nests made out of? What holds the nest together?" Nests can be made of natural materials such as sticks, mud and grass. Mud is often used to hold a nest together. Mud is made of water and dirt. Sometimes man-made materials and trash such as paper, newspaper, plastic or fabric can be used by birds to build their nests.

Key Vocabulary: nest, natural, man-made

Explore On-Air

Watch an episode of *Wild Kratts*. *Wild Kratts* airs Monday - Friday on WITF TV at 7:30am and 12:30pm. You can also watch on WITFK 24/7 at 6pm and 6:30pm. The *Wild Kratts* episode you choose will help you explore animals and where they live.

Explore Online

Daniel Tiger Video - <https://tinyurl.com/y9soku98>

Nest Building - <https://tinyurl.com/y7hofsx5>

Home Tweet Home - <https://tinyurl.com/y92srozK>

Try It Out

Let's build a bird's nest. Go outside and collect natural materials to use for your nest. Collect soil and add water to make mud to hold your nest together. Design and build a bird nest with the materials you collected. Let your nest dry outside. When dry, pick up your nest. Did your nest fall apart? What could you do to make your nest more secure? What materials worked well? Which materials did not work well? Keep your nest, you will need it for next week's activity.

Materials: Dirt, leaves, sticks, water, grass

Extension: Using construction paper and markers, create a bird to put in your nest. The bird should have a head, beak, eyes, body, wings, tail, legs and feet. A different extension is to create another nest out of man-made materials found in your home.

You Could Be...

You could be an ornithologist!

Ornithologists study birds.

John James Audubon was an ornithologist that discovered a new species and created a book with pictures of over 700 North American bird species.

John James
Audubon



The Engineering by Design program is built around state and national standards that engage learners in authentic problem/project-based learning activities that build their understanding of Math, Science, Technology, Engineering and English-Language Arts while making sense of the world around them.



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Companion Site:

<http://bit.ly/PBSiu121315>

