Unit 2: Animals and Habitats

WEEK 6 Day 4



Discovery Table: Nests

Children explore available materials and build nests.

Big Ideas	Like humans, animals are part of interdependent communities that are affected by, and adapt to, the environment that surrounds them. Through shared or independent research, people gather, organize, and analyze information about the world to think critically and gain understanding.
Guiding Questions	What more do you want to learn about animals and their habitats? How and where can you find this information? What do animals need to survive?
Vocabulary	habitat: a place where animals live natural: coming from nature, not made by humans protect: to keep safe from harm
Materials and Preparation	 Owls, Gail Gibbons Flag pages 21 and 26. small trays or pieces of cardboard, for bases a large collection of Beautiful Stuff for building nests, including but not limited to: thin sticks and twigs leaves long strands of grass ribbon yarn feathers shredded paper material for securing nests, such as clay, mud, or liquid glue (can be watered down)

	 paintbrushes wooden or plastic eggs, or real, empty (blown) eggshells bird or owl figurines, store bought or child-created Owl Nest Images (some provided) informational texts and other images featuring birds' nests To build the needed Beautiful Stuff collection (featuring natural materials), consider asking families and colleagues to contribute, and/or gathering materials from a local park, yard, or wooded area. IMPORTANT NOTE: Be aware of and exclude potential allergens. At the Discovery Table, set up each workspace with a base and paintbrush. Place the Beautiful Stuff collection in the center of the table.
Intro to centers	 We have been reading and learning about one family of birds—owls. Owls and many other kinds of birds build nests. Let's take a look. Hold up the books Owls and show the flagged pages. Show the Owl Nest images. What do you notice? Why do you think owls and other birds build nests? Why might nests be an important part of an owl's habitat? Turn and talk to a partner. Provide time for children to talk. Invite a few responses. Nests protect owls and their eggs; nests keep them safe. Nests are a comfortable place for birds' eggs to develop and for baby birds to live. This week at the Discovery Table, there are some natural materials you can use to construct nests. Natural materials come from nature, they are not made by people. Birds build nests in all kinds of different shapes and sizes and with different kinds of materials. Show the collected texts and images. Before you build, you might do some research. When you do, you
	might notice that certain kinds of birds construct certain kinds of nests that work particularly well for them. I want to show you something important. Birds carefully weave materials together, and they also use natural adhesives. This is the adhesive you will use (glue/clay/mud). It will help secure your materials, or hold them together, as you build your nests. You can use paintbrushes to apply the glue.

	Model. With these materials, you could construct a nest by yourself, or you may choose to collaborate with a partner to make a nest.
During Centers	Children select materials and build nests. Nests can be created by layering materials such as twigs, leaves, and grass. Support children to add glue/clay/mud to bind their materials together. Encourage them to reference non-fiction books and photographs while building. Constructing nests will be quite challenging for some children. Facilitate conversations between children as they ask for help with solving problems and to share ideas about strategies that worked well.
	Invite dramatic play as children use model birds and eggs to act out life in a nest, or nest-building.
Facilitation	 Why do birds construct nests? What materials do they use? Why? What do you notice about the different kinds of nests birds build? What kind of nest do you want to build? What kind of bird might live in your nest? Which materials will you use? Will you work alone or collaborate with others?
Standards	 SL.2.K.a Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood. K-LS1-1. Recognize that all plants and animals grow and change over time.

Notes