

LESSON PLAN

VIRTUAL CLUB PELICAN

Project Title: Batiquitos Bird's Nest

Theme: Lagoon Birds

Age Range: 7-12 years

PROJECT INTRODUCTION: Artists will create a two-dimensional collage Batiquitos Bird's Nest using recycled paper and inspired by the nests of native birds at the Batiquitos Lagoon. You will be using different found paper materials, just like the birds!



PROJECT MATERIALS:

- Pencil
- 1 Piece of Light Blue Cardstock (8.5"X 11")
- Several pieces of "Recyclable" Paper like newspaper, magazine pages or ads/coupons that come in the mail, scraps of wrapping paper or origami paper
- Scissors
- Glue Stick

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. What birds live at the Batiquitos lagoon? How do you think they build their nests to survive in this environment?
2. What do different species of birds' nests look like? What do they have in common? What are their differences?
3. When you walk the Batiquitos Lagoon trail or walk in your neighborhood do you ever see bird's nests? Can you tell what bird the nest belongs to? How can you tell?

DISCUSSION (discuss or read):

What are some of the birds that live and build their nests at the Batiquitos Lagoon?

About 185-200 species of birds have been seen at Batiquitos Lagoon at different times of the year. There are all types of birds- shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, flying/diving birds, raptors, and even some land birds that use the wetland habitat around the lagoon.

Some birds you might see while walking at the lagoon are Anna's Hummingbirds, Great Blue Herons, Ospreys, Owls, Snowy Egrets, or Common Yellowthroats. People who visually search for birds and keep lists of the birds they have seen are called "birders" or "birdwatchers". They often help keep track of what birds are living in various ecosystems throughout the world by sharing what types of birds they've seen and where they've seen them.

You can check out lists of birds seen at the Batiquitos Lagoon and add what you have seen at:

https://ebird.org/hotspot/L167991?yr=BIGDAY_2017a&m=&rank=lrec

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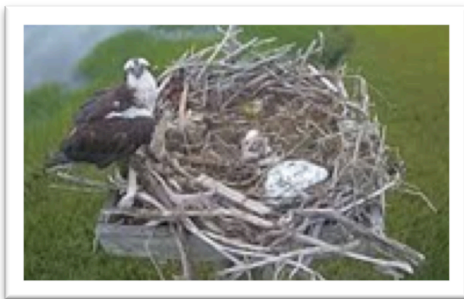
What do some of the bird's nests at Batiquitos Lagoon look like?

Anna's Hummingbird Nest:



Nest site is variable, usually on a branch of a tree or shrub, sometimes in vines, on wires, under eaves. Usually 4-25 feet above ground, can be lower or higher. Nest (built by female) is a compact cup of plant fibers and spider webs, lined with plant down and sometimes feathers, the outside camouflaged with lichens. (See how tiny the nest is compared to a house key!) Usually nests contain 2 white eggs. The incubation is by the female only, 14-19 days.

Osprey's Nest:



Nest site is usually on top of a large tree (often the tree is dead or has a broken top) not far from water. Also nests on utility poles or other structures including poles put up for them. Site typically is very open to the sky. Nest (built by both sexes) is a bulky pile of sticks, lined with smaller materials. Birds may use the same nest for years, adding material each year, so that the nest becomes huge. Nests contain 3, sometimes 2-4 eggs which are creamy white, blotched with brown. Incubation is by both parents but mostly by female, about 38 days.

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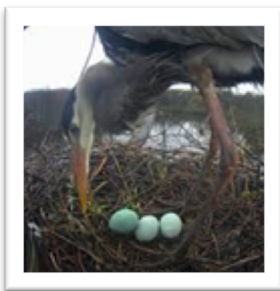
Snowy Egret's Nest:



The male selects the nest site and displays there to ward off rivals and attract a mate. The nest site is in a tree or shrub, usually 5-10' up, sometimes on the ground but often higher in a tree. The nest (built by both sexes) is a platform of sticks. 3-5 eggs are laid, sometimes 2-6 and are pale blue-green in color. Incubation of the eggs is done by both sexes and takes 20-26 days.

Examples of other nests you might see at the Batiquitos Lagoon:

Great Blue Heron



Owl



Common Yellowthroat



ART PROJECT KEY TERMS:

Nest is a structure or place made or chosen by a bird for laying eggs and sheltering its young.

Collage is a piece of art made by sticking various different materials such as photographs and/or pieces of paper on to a backing.

Layering is the action of arranging items on top of each other.

LESSON PLAN

Crisscrossing is forming a pattern of intersecting lines or paths.

ART MAKING PROCESS:

Step 1:

To begin your art project, start with your scissors and recyclable papers. Carefully cut thin rectangles of various lengths and widths that will serve as the “twigs” for your nest (Fig.1).

Step 2:

Fold over your paper to cut multiple rectangles at a time. There is no set amount, just create a small pile of them. (Don’t cut all your recyclable paper- set aside a larger piece of recyclable paper with an interesting color, texture, or pattern to use for your eggs.)

STEP 3:

Set aside your “twigs”. You will now use your pencil and light blue background paper. On your background paper draw a circular shape that will be the “base” of your nest (Fig.2).

STEP 4:

Use your pencil to draw lines that represent twigs, crisscrossing all through and around your nest shape, covering the whole circular area (Fig.3).

STEP 5:

Next use your glue stick and put glue around the edge of your nest shape, on top of your pencil lines and start adding your cut “twig” pieces of paper to create the rim of the nest (Fig.4). Have fun layering and crisscrossing your pieces of paper so they will look like the twigs in a bird’s nest! Add more glue as needed (warning: you may get sticky fingers!). You may not use all the “twig” papers that you cut, but you can use them for other projects.

STEP 6:

When you have finished creating your nest, select one of your recycled papers to use for your eggs. Using your pencil draw 3-4 oval shapes (Fig.5) and cut them out with your scissors. Lay them in the middle of your nest and decide how you want to arrange them- they can be separate or overlapping. Glue them into your nest and you are finished (Fig.6).

POST PROMPT QUESTIONS (reflect and share):

1. How did you like thinking like a bird? Did you enjoy gathering different papers to use in your nest? What did you think about layering your “twigs” in your nest? What size and how many eggs did you create? Why?
2. Would you like to do another version of your nest using twigs, feathers, and grasses that you find outside? How would you layer your materials? How would it be different to work with actual nest materials? What effect would this have on your artwork?
3. Are you curious about more birds and their nests? You can be a birder whenever you are outside and can learn all about birds online when you’re inside. Check out this great website with information about birds throughout the world: <https://www.audubon.org/>

ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

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ART PROJECT STEP BY STEP EXAMPLE:



FIG. 1

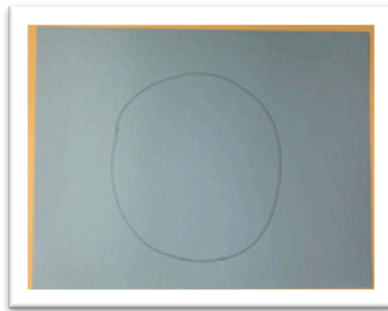


FIG. 2

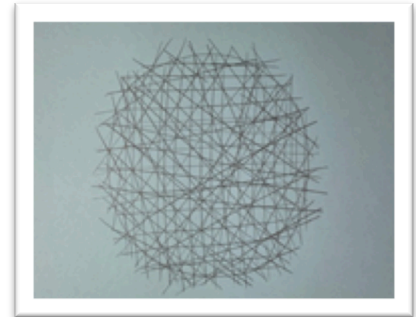


FIG. 3



FIG. 4



FIG. 5



FIG. 6