ETSU Eagle Cams – Learning Activities

Nest Size

Grade: Pre-K

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ETSU Eagle Cams: https://www.etsu.edu/cas/biology/eagle-cam/cameras.php

Summary

How could we make our own nest? How many steps would it take to walk the length of the nest? For this activity, students will engage students in researching information about the size of bird nests.

Learning Objectives

- Students will gather materials and construct their life-size nest.
- Students will observe, make predictions, measure, and draw out the size of their life-size nest.

Science Standards

- **PK.LS1.01** a. Identify common attributes of familiar living things.
- **PK.ESS3.01** a. Observe, describe, and compare the habitats of plants and animals.

*Math Standards**PK.CC.A.**1 count forward from 1 to 30*

Materials

- Rope with knots
- Blocks
- Pillows
- Feathers

Preparation

Consider reading *Whose Nest?* written by Victoria Cochrane. Study the nest on the ETSU Eagle camera with students and ask them to make predictions for the width of the nest based on what they see.

Part 1

- View this website, https://www.nationaleaglecenter.org/eagle-nesting-young/, and view a life-size replica of a bald eagle nest.
- Talk with students about how big the nest is and ask, "How could we make our own nest?"

 These learning experiences are the result of the 2021 STEM Collaboration with ETSU pre-service teachers in Early Childhood and Elementary Education courses. This project was supported with funds from the ETSU RDC program.

Part 2

- Ask students to gather materials to build a nest.
- If using rope, work with students to measure out 9 feet of rope and tie knots to mark each foot of rope.
- If using materials in the classroom, have students gather pillows, chairs, blocks, and other classroom materials to build your nest.
- If using butcher paper, work with students to measure out a piece of paper large enough to create your nest.

Part 3

- Depending on the method you choose to use, create your nest with students. Have them measure, construct, and draw out their life-size nest.
- Ask, "How many steps would it take to walk the length of the nest?" and write down students' predictions. Walk the length of the nest, counting out loud with each step, and then compare the number to their estimates.

EXTENSION IDEAS

- Work with students to create a functional nest so they can learn how a nest is able to function. Use a paper bag as a base for the nest and have students gather materials they think would be good for a nest, either outside or indoors. Once they have their materials, students can create their nests and test them out with "eggs" to see if they are functional.

- Discuss how eagles fly with students. Talk with them about the function of feathers and how they help eagles to fly. Check out this website for more information about the importance of feathers: https://www.baldeagleinfo.com/eagle/feathers.html#:~:text=Bald%20eagles%20have%207%2C000%20feathers,and%20protect%20them%20from%20rain.

- Make comparisons with students to other buildings they think would be as large as an eagle's nest. For example, their homes or a school building. If your nest can be moved, take it around to different areas to make a real life sizing comparison.

- Talk about how different birds have different size nests. For example, hummingbirds have very small nests. The children could recognize if a nest would be big enough/small enough for certain birds.

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