

BACK TO NATURE



CENTER for
AQUATIC
SCIENCES

at Adventure Aquarium

www.aquaticsciences.org

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Nature Sleuthing: Wildlife Nests

Animals live outside but they need a home.

Wildlife nests are everywhere and come in different shapes and sizes. Some are easy to find, but most are out of reach and hard to see. Many mammals, birds, and insects need a place to hide from predators and safely raise their young.



Nests are found in trees and bushes, but some animals live in less obvious, even unusual, places. Many animals build their own home with materials found nearby.



What you will need:

- A copy of this sheet
- Pencil or pen
- Notebook
- Phone or camera (optional)

Go Outside

Look around your house, neighborhood or local park. How many animal homes you can find? You will need to look closely. Be careful and quiet as you search. Record what you see with photos, drawings, and stories.

You can lend a helping hand.

It's hard for some animals to find a place to make a home. Try hanging nest boxes around your house and in your yard.

Build a bird house out of [wood](#) or a [gourd](#).

You can build a box for [bats](#) or [butterflies](#).

Or maybe a [bee hotel](#).

You can even purchase easy-to-make kits to build all of these at your local home store or nature center.



Start your search by looking closely at trees and bushes.



Bird Nest



Wasp Nest



Squirrel Nest

Found a bird's nest? Visit [NestWatch](#) to learn which kind.



Look for holes in the ground or piles of wood and brush.

Who do you think lives there?

Which animals might dig holes in the ground?

Holes in trees make great animal homes.

Who do you think lives in these holes?
(Hint: the size matters)

What other kinds of animal homes did you find? What evidence did you see that an animal lives there?



Share your photos, drawings, and stories on Facebook and Instagram using these hashtags:

#casbacktonature

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I found a baby animal! What do I do?

A young animal's best chance for survival is with its parents. If you see a baby animal, first step away. It may not be abandoned, and mother is nearby. Still not sure?



Here are some easy online steps to follow if you find a baby [bird](#) or [mammal](#).

