

Creating an Eagle Nest

Grade Level Range: First- Fifth Grade

Content Areas Addressed: Third Grade Life Science

Group Size: Whole Class

Duration: 90 minutes

Key Vocabulary: Habitat, Bald Eagle, Nest

Lesson Objective:

The students will identify the meaning of habitat in reference to the bald eagle and demonstrate the construction of an eagle nest.

Methods:

The lesson will begin with a lecture/discussion about habitats. It will move specifically into the bald eagle's habitat; what it is used for, how it is made, how it is important. The second part of the lesson will be hands on, with each student participating in building the replica nest.

Procedures:

- The teacher should prepare a slide show presentation with many images of examples of habitats, bald eagles' nests, and bald eagles in their nests.
- While going through the various images on the slideshow, the teacher will explain what a habitat is and have a discussion with students about habitats during which the teacher will provide examples of various animals and their habitats and the interactions between animals and their habitats.
- The teacher can ask questions like "What is your habitat?" "What would the habitat of a lion be?" "A rabbit?"
- The teacher will then move into the bald eagle and explain their habitat is their nest they build.
- The teacher needs to explain how the bald eagles build their nests, and how much time they spend in them. He/She should emphasize just how big they are (around 5-6 feet across) because of how big the birds are including their height, weight and wingspan. Also describe the components of the nest, i.e. inner nest, outer nest and choice of building materials.
- The teacher will introduce that they are going to build a nest outside. Ask the students what kinds of things outside they should use to build the nest.
- The students should answer with various outdoor materials (grass, weeds, sticks, branches, leaves).
- The class will travel outside near a woods area. The teacher will explain how they are to gather materials to form a nest. It needs to be round and shaped like a bowl. It is okay if it doesn't end up looking exactly like a real eagle's nest. (The point is to see what all goes into making it and what it actually feels like.)

- The students will gather leaves, sticks, branches, plants, mud, and form it into a “nest” that is at least five feet across. The students can bring a tape measure to do the final measure of the nest.
- The building needs to be a team effort and everyone needs to be participating.
- After the nest is complete, the students can take turns sitting in the nest like eagles. A class picture can be taken with the nest.
- The teacher will have a debriefing discussion with the students about the nest. (How did you work together? What worked well for the nest and what didn’t? What have you learned about the eagles and their nests?)

Background:

The students should have some background knowledge on the bald eagles, but more will be given at the beginning of the lesson.

Resources:

- PowerPoint
- Computer
- Images of eagles/nests/habitats
- Access to outdoors
- Outdoor materials

Standards Addressed

S3L1. Students will investigate the habitats of different organisms and the dependence of organisms on their habitat.