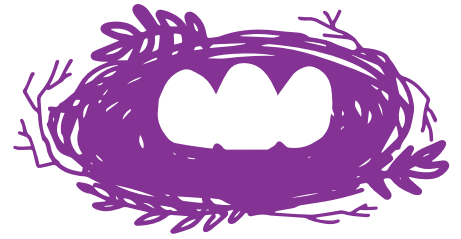


Build a Dinosaur Nest



Activity Description

Millions of years ago, dinosaurs dominated the Earth! They roamed the Earth for about 180 million years until all non-avian dinosaurs went extinct about 66 million years ago. Dinosaurs hatched from eggs, and in order to keep them safe and warm before hatching, dinosaur parents built nests! Dinosaurs that lived in different environments built their nests in different manners—some used soil and plants to create their nests, while others dug holes for them. Dinosaurs that preferred digging holes relied on the sun's heat to incubate their eggs. Those that created them out of plants and soil relied on the heat produced by microbes

Procedure

1. Head outside and collect your materials!
2. Find a nice spot somewhere outside where you are going to build your nest, and get to constructing!

Materials

- Various natural materials (soil, mud, twigs, leaves)
- Dinosaur eggs (small rocks)
- Paper (optional)
- Pencil and crayons (optional)

Preparation and Safety

Make sure to avoid areas that may have poison ivy or poison oak!

decaying organic matter for incubating (this would allow for dinosaurs to lay their eggs in colder climates). Some species built mounds around their nests. These mounds allowed them to brood (or sit) over their eggs without crushing them. Some even nested in colonies which allowed for more protection of their hatchlings!

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Procedure (continued)

3. Use dirt and mud to help bind your other natural materials. Sticks and twigs can be tangled together to help create nest walls. Remember not all dinosaurs were gigantic, so your nests don't need to be either!
4. Search for some round rocks that you can use to represent your dino eggs.
5. After you've built your nest, place your eggs inside so they can incubate!

Extensions or Adaptations

- Plan out your dinosaur nest on your sheet of paper! Where will your dinosaur live? What type of environment will they live in? Knowing the type of environment they will live in will help determine what type of nest they will build! Will it be a mound, will you dig a hole, or will you build a "typical" nest? What materials will you need? What type of dinosaur will this nest belong to?
- Research your favorite dinosaur to find out what kind of nest they made! You can try to recreate their nesting style!