

Animal Builders

Grade levels PreK, K, 2

Program Description:

In the fall, the focus of this activity is squirrels as builders. We will learn from squirrels the engineering and design of nests and dreys, and build models of squirrel homes. If this program takes place in Spring when birds are building nests, we will build too! We will look closely at the materials that nests are built out of and think about how birds construct their nests.

Massachusetts Curriculum Standards:

PreK: Earth and Space Sciences

ESS2. Earth's Systems

PreK-ESS2-1(MA). Raise questions and engage in discussions about how different types of local environments (including water) provide homes for different kinds of living things.

PreK: Life Science

LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

PreK-LS2-2(MA). Using evidence from the local environment explain how familiar plants and animals meet their needs where they live.

PreK: Physical Sciences

PS1. Matter and Its Interactions

PreK-PS1-2(MA). Investigate natural and human-made objects to describe, compare, sort, and classify objects based on observable physical characteristics, uses, and whether something is manufactured or occurs in nature.

PreK-PS1-3(MA). Differentiate between the properties of an object and those of the material of which it is made.

PreK-PS1-4(MA). Recognize through investigation that physical objects and materials can change under different circumstances.
PS2. Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions

PreK-PS2-2(MA). Through experience, develop awareness of factors that influence whether things stand or fall.

Kindergarten: Earth and Space Sciences

ESS2. Earth's Systems

K-ESS2-2. Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment.

Grade 2: Life Science

LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

2-LS2-3(MA). Develop and use models to compare how plants and animals depend on their surroundings and other living things to meet their needs in the places they live.

Grade 2: Physical Science

PS1. Matter and its Interactions

2-PS1-1. Describe and classify different kinds of materials by observable properties of color, flexibility, hardness, texture, and absorbency.

2-PS1-2. Test different materials and analyze the data obtained to determine which materials have the properties that are best suited for an intended purpose.

Grade 2: Technology/Engineering

ETS1. Engineering Design

2.K-2-ETS1-3. Analyze data from tests of two objects designed to solve the same design problem to compare the strengths and weaknesses of how each object performs.



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