



Lesson Plan: A Day in the Life of a Bald Eagle	
Lesson Objectives	Students will study the behavior and needs of an eagle by building a nest from commonly found products.
Project Objectives	
Grade Level	3-5
Background Information	<p>The American bald eagle is our national symbol. It is a bird native to North America. This endangered bird is not actually bald. It gets this name bald because its head is covered with white feathers. They have a brown body and white head which shows a sharp contrast. They also have yellow legs and bills. They are found typically near lakes, reservoirs, marshes, and coasts because they feed mainly on fish, but also hunt mammals, gulls, waterfowl. Bald eagles can be found flying high in the sky, flying low over trees, or perched on a tree or on the ground. Bald eagles regurgitate indigestible food. This is called a pellet. Because their stomachs contain powerful acids, an eagle pellet typically just have fur and feathers.</p> <p>Bald eagles are known to build huge nests that could be up to eight feet across and may weigh a ton. A clutch of 1 to 3 eggs is laid by the female. Both males and females incubate the eggs for about 1 to 1 and 1/2 months. Both parents feed the hatchlings until they learn to fly.</p>
Materials/Resources	- twigs and branches

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pipe cleaners - paper strips - tooth picks - yarn - any other commonly found material of student's choice
Vocabulary	<p>Regurgitate Indigestible Pellet</p>
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students will brainstorm and collect the materials of their choice to build a sturdy eagle's nest.
Student Reflection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why do you think the American bald eagle is a good national symbol. If you were to chose another bird as a symbol for your family what would it be and why? 2. Students should compare the strengths of their nests by testing how many pennies it can hold. Students can then brainstorm different strategies and use variety of materials to make the nests stronger. 3. What did you learn about yourself as you worked on this piece?

References

- http://www.nationaleaglecenter.org/learn/faq/?gclid=Cj0KEQjw9IS-BRC4qZXagbLs6uMBEiQAYHBh-0dMBIQvdZgbW29t0_uVeXcrTmNnFPK_QoJiuCPUyQwaAtPO8P8HAQ
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- http://farr-integratingit.net/Integration/General/Eagle/eagle_lesson_plans.pdf

www.lowerraritanwatershed.org