IN BRIEF



The Best Nest tells the tale of a mummy gull and a daddy gull who are going to have some eggs. They need a nest... but what should they make it out of? Inspired by this story, this pack is filled with facts and activities about amazing nests and astounding eggs!

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- Looking up information is a key skill for pupils, and the **Storytime Glossary** is a handy reference resource that they can use when reading the story in this month's magazine. When they come across a word that they don't know, encourage them to look it up here. Children could write down new words they learn in this way in a 'word bank' to literally build their vocabulary!

- The **Class Discussion Sheet** has questions about the main subject of 'The Best Nest' – nests! Encourage children to talk about what they know about nests and share knowledge with each other. Have they seen nests in real life, and what were they like? There is also an exercise at the bottom of the page where pupils should write down words that make them think of their own cosy home!

- The **Reading Comprehension Sheet** has an extract from 'The Best Nest', and your students have to find adjectives, onomatopoeias and proper nouns in it. This is a good way to introduce these terms with practical examples. Children can also come up with their own creative onomatopoeias to complete sentences.

- How well do your pupils know 'The Best Nest'? Find out by getting them to do the **Story Sequencing Sheet** exercise! The events from the tale have been jumbled up, and they have to number the sections from 1-11 to show the order they should be read in.

- The **Storyboard** page features colourful art from the story of Mummy Gull and Daddy Gull, as well as space for students to write down notes about what happened in the story. They can record bullet points, key words or complete descriptive sentences!

Continued on page 2...

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- Being inside a nest or other cosy home is very different from being outside in the elements! The **Inside or Outside?** sheet lists many words... and your pupils have to decide which ones should go in the 'inside' box and which belong in the 'outside' one. Once the children have done this, they should write three sentences using some of the words on the page.

- **Nest Sweet Nest!** is a creative writing exercise that encourages children to think about what it would be like to snuggle up in a bird's nest. They could write a story about how they ended up in one and use the words learned on the previous page to describe the experience.

2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS

- Most of us have eaten eggs... but what is actually inside them? The **Inside an Egg!** sheet has an egg cross-section and names of the different parts. It's up to your pupils to match the different parts with the right definitions! The example in the illustration has an embryo inside, but you can mention to your students that eggs from the supermarket won't!

- We know that birds hatch out of eggs, but which other creatures do the same? The **What Hatches From an Egg?** page has pictures of lots of different animals – your pupils should circle the ones that they think come from eggs! You should mention that two mammals lay eggs, and there are some snakes and sharks that give birth to live young.

- Finding places to shelter from the weather and hide from predators is important for many animals! The **Amazing Homes!** sheet shows the lairs of several animals – can your pupils match each creature with the place they like to live in? They should think about why each animal prefers a certain home! An important thing to consider is the kind of materials available in their environment and how the creature moves around. For example, a nest in a tree is handy for a flying bird!

Continued on page 3...

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- Bird eggs come in many shapes and sizes! The **Rolling Eggs-periment!** page lists different shapes of eggs and describes an activity to test how eggs of different sizes might roll. It requires hard-boiled eggs, a ramp, a measuring tape and plasticine to make different egg-shapes out of. Pupils should remember to record the data they gather, as this is a very important part of scientific research!

3. ART LESSON IDEA

- **What Makes the Best Nest?** is a two-part creative exercise. On the first sheet is a flowchart that pupils can use to come up with a creative idea for a new nest design. They should follow the steps and note down their ideas.

  On the second sheet is a frame in which they can draw their design. Where will the nest be, and what is it made out of? They should show this in their art. And of course, they are free to add eggs... or even cute baby birds inside!

4. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- After completing the nest-design activity above, teachers could extend the discussion by exploring what makes somewhere feel safe, welcoming and like home. Pupils can talk about how nests protect birds and their chicks, then compare this to the places, people and routines that help humans feel safe and cared for too.

The class could discuss questions such as:

- What makes a home feel comforting?
- Can a place feel like home even if it is small or simple?
- How do kindness and love help people feel safe?
- What can we do to help others feel welcome and included?

This activity encourages reflection on wellbeing, belonging and emotional security and the real meaning of homes and nests.

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

A guide to challenging words in this month's stories!

The Best Nest (Page 6)

- **Flutter:** a quick, light movement
- **Pitter-patter:** soft repeated tapping sound
- **Squawk:** loud, harsh bird cry
- **Glided:** moved smoothly through the air without flapping
- **Glossy:** shiny and smooth
- **Scrunched-up:** crushed and wrinkled
- **Gust:** sudden strong burst of wind
- **Sturdy:** strongly built
- **Downpour:** very heavy rain
- **Soggier:** wetter and softer
- **Preened:** cleaned and smoothed
- **Tufts:** small patches of grass or hair
- **Snagged:** caught

How the Dragon Was Tricked (Page 10)

- **Countryside:** farmed area outside of cities and towns
- **Mischief:** naughty behaviour
- **Pranks:** tricks played on people for fun
- **Grumbled:** said in a quiet, complaining way
- **Annoying:** irritating other people
- **Acorns:** nuts from oak trees
- **Trunk:** thick main part of a tree
- **Mischievous:** liking to cause trouble
- **Flock:** group of sheep or birds
- **Gleefully:** in a happy, excited way
- **Armour:** metal equipment worn for protection
- **Rumours:** stories that might not be true
- **Shimmered:** shone with a soft moving light

The Kitchen Prince (Page 17)

- **Tender:** soft and easy to chew
- **Special occasions:** special events or times
- **Ingredients:** foods used to make a dish
- **Simmer:** cooked gently
- **Velvety:** very soft and smooth
- **Afford:** have enough money to pay for something
- **Restaurant:** place where people go to eat
- **Crates:** wooden boxes
- **Furnace:** large device for heating
- **Clanged:** made a loud ringing noise
- **Disheartened:** sad or discouraged
- **Countertops:** flat areas for preparing food
- **Mince:** chop food into little pieces
- **Cuisine:** style or type of cooking

The Pirate Queen of China (Page 22)

- **Coast:** land next to the sea
- **Oysters:** type of shellfish
- **Mast:** tall pole on ship that holds sails
- **Merchants:** people who buy and sell things
- **Cargo:** goods carried on a ship
- **Traders:** people who exchange goods for money or other goods
- **Swooped:** moved quickly
- **Horizon:** line where land or sea appear to meet the sky
- **Harbour:** safe place for ships to stay
- **Ransom:** money paid to set someone free
- **Examined:** looked carefully at something
- **Squadron:** group of ships
- **Desert:** leave without permission

Continued on page 2...

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

The Cheshire Cat Finds His Grin (Page 30)

- **Invited:** asked to come to something
- **Laden:** filled or covered with something
- **Trifle:** layered dessert with fruit, custard and cream
- **Decorated:** made to look pretty with extra details
- **Chuckled:** laughed quietly
- **Grinning:** smiling widely
- **Curious:** wanting to know more
- **Slurped:** drank noisily
- **Chewy:** needing to be chewed a lot
- **Burbled:** said in a bubbly, excited way
- **Plummeting:** falling very fast

Yianko and the Sea Mother (Page 32)

- **Centuries:** hundreds of years
- **Unluckiest:** having the worst luck
- **Impressive:** making people feel amazed or impressed
- **Torn:** ripped or broken
- **Trembled:** shook because of fear or cold
- **Goddess:** female god
- **Bless:** give luck or good things
- **Promise:** say he will definitely do something
- **Hesitated:** stopped for a moment because he was unsure
- **Vanished:** disappeared completely
- **Quarrelling:** arguing or fighting

The Proud Rooster (Page 36)

- **Commotion:** a lot of noise and movement
- **Conceited:** too proud of himself
- **Flecks:** small bits of colour
- **Glittered:** shone with a sparkly light
- **Strutted:** walked in a bright, showy way
- **Admiration:** a feeling of liking and respect
- **Perch:** place where a bird rests
- **Crow:** make a loud 'cock-a-doodle-do'
- **Snout:** nose of an animal
- **Cunningly:** in a clever, tricky way
- **Seized:** grabbed suddenly
- **Uproar:** a loud and noisy situation

Going Viral (Page 39)

- **Diagrams:** simple drawings that explain how something works
- **Circuits:** paths that electricity follows in devices
- **Electronic:** using electricity to work
- **Synthesisers:** machines that make music using electricity
- **Fascinating:** very interesting
- **Calculations:** processes of solving maths problems
- **Obsession:** something he thought about all the time
- **Tinkering:** playing with things to see how they work
- **Programs:** sets of computer instructions
- **Virus:** disease that copies itself

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Nesting! Many birds build nests to keep their eggs and chicks safe, but what do your students know about them? Find out by asking the questions below!

1. What is a nest, and why do animals build them?

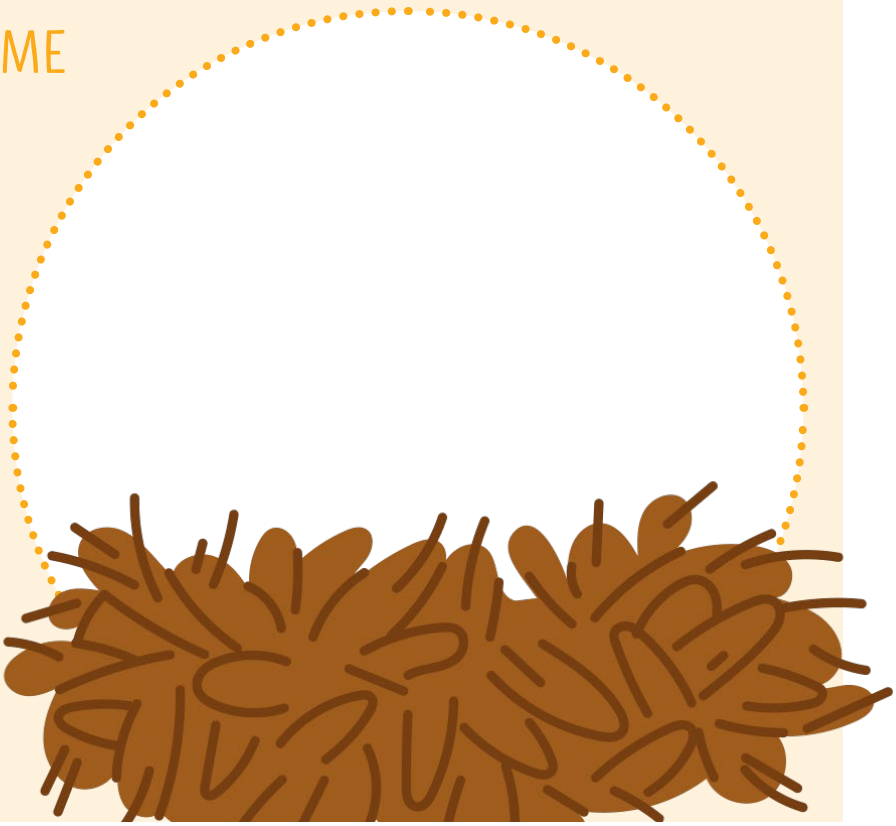
2. How do nests help keep animals and their babies safe?

3. What different materials do animals use to build nests?

4. How is a nest similar to your home? How is it different?

HOME SWEET HOME

Homes are places we should feel safe and protected. Inside the nest, write or draw words that make a place feel like home.



NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Can you spot the *adjectives* and *onomatopoeias* in this extract?

“Mummy Gull snipped, folded and stacked the cardboard Daddy Gull brought into a nice, sturdy box-nest.

No sooner had the gull finished than the sky went dark and... CRACK-KA-BOOM! went a clap of thunder.

Rain began to patter onto the ground. Soon, it turned into a heavy downpour!

Mummy Gull and Daddy Gull hopped into their nest, but oh no, the cardboard quickly got all wet and mushy!”

1. What two *adjectives* (describing words) are used to talk about the cardboard nest in the first sentence?

_____

2. In the second and third sentences are two *onomatopoeias* (words that sound like the noise they are describing). What are they?

_____

3. What are the two *proper nouns* (names for particular beings, places or things) in the last sentence?

FUN WITH ONOMATOPOEIAS!

What onomatopoeias *(words that sounds like the noise they are describing) would complete the sentences below?*

The dog went _____.

The firework made a _____.

_____ went the duck.

The floorboard _____.

ANSWERS: 1. *Nice* and *sturdy*. 2. *CRACK-KA-BOOM!* and *patter*. 3. *Mummy Gull* and *Daddy Gull*

NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

The events of this month's story have been jumbled up... can you help Mummy Gull and Daddy Gull put them back in the right order?

The first thing they found was a bag of newspapers, flyers and chip wrappers by a bin. They took the paper and used it to make a nest.

Daddy Gull flapped into the air. He found dry grass, some red fabric, a chocolate wrapper, a straw and some string as well.

Unfortunately, the paper nest blew away. Then, Daddy Gull found some cardboard boxes and Mummy Gull made them into a nice nest.

Mummy Gull was most upset, but Daddy Gull said they should build a nest of twigs. They flew to the park to look for sticks.

They wove everything Daddy Gull had found into their twig nest. It was messy, but it was wonderful and it was all theirs!

Mummy Gull had a funny feeling in her tummy. She told Daddy Gull that she was going to lay eggs and they needed to make a nest!

He also spotted some dog fur and a bracelet and took everything he had foundback to the nest. Mummy Gull was surprised!

There was a clap of thunder, and heavy rain began to fall. Before long, the cardboard nest was sodden and collapsed!

Mummy Gull laid two eggs. When they hatched, the two fluffy gull chicks were happy to live in the best nest!

Daddy Gull was proud, and he said they would make the best nest in the world. They flew off to look for things to make it out of.

The birds used the twigs to build a nest. Mummy Gull thought it was uncomfortable and asked for some grass to make it softer.

NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

STORYBOARD

What happened to Mummy Gull and Daddy Gull in the story?
Write down what you can remember under the pictures.









NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

INSIDE OR OUTSIDE?

Which words would you use to describe being in a nest or other shelter, and which ones would you use to talk about being outside?

What is it like inside?	
What is it like outside?	

Cosy | Warm | Breezy | Quiet | Snug | Safe | Sunny

Chilly | Sheltered | Dry | Muddy | Protected | Spacious

Windy | Damp | Rainy | Peaceful | Cold | Bright | Noisy

Now write 3 sentences, using 3 of these words in each of them!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

NEST SWEET NEST!

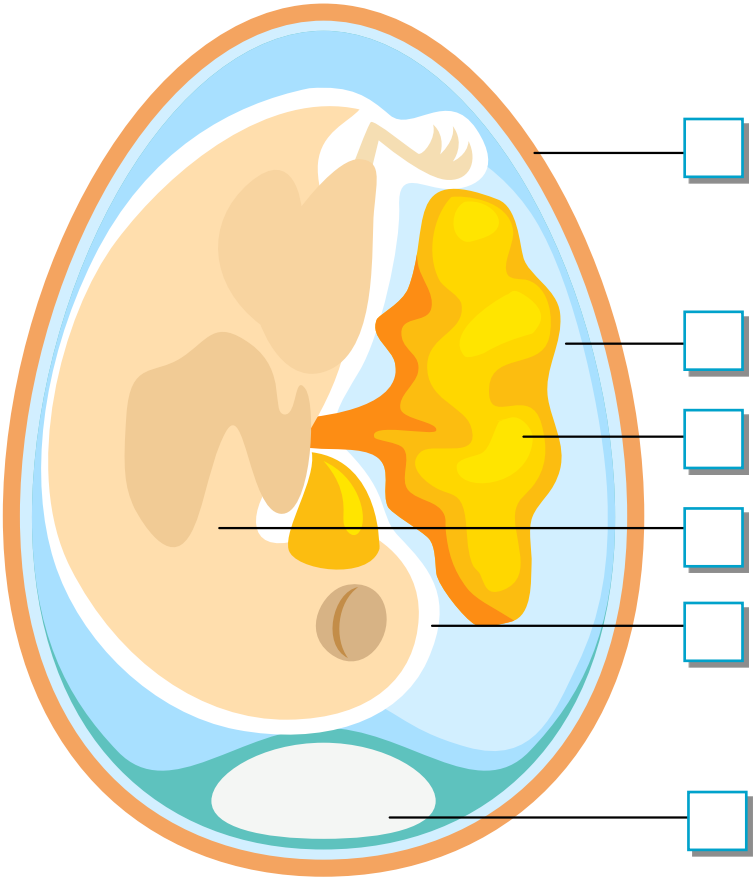
What would it be like to snuggle up in a bird's nest? Describe it below!

NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

INSIDE AN EGG!

Eggs are amazing objects that contain baby animals... like little birds, fish, and even some mammals. See if you can match the parts of the bird egg with the correct names below!



A. SHELL: a hard layer that protects the baby bird and stops bacteria and other nasties from getting in. However, the shell can let oxygen in and let carbon dioxide out so the young bird can breathe!

B. YOLK: this provides food for the growing bird!

C. EMBRYO: the baby bird that grows in the egg. It is held in a bag of protective fluid.

D. ALBUMEN: also known as 'egg white', it protects the yolk and the embryo.

E. AIR CELL: this pocket of air forms in the large end of the egg after it is laid.

F. AMNION: the fluid-filled membrane around the embryo.

ANSWERS: From top to bottom: A, D, B, C, F, E.

Don't worry – your breakfast egg won't have a baby bird inside!
The ones you buy in the supermarket aren't fertilised, so there is no embryo – just yummy yolk and egg white!

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

NAME _____ CLASS _____

WHAT HATCHES FROM AN EGG?

Most of these animals hatch from eggs... but do you know which ones? Circle the animals that do NOT hatch from eggs!



Almost all mammals give birth to live young instead of laying eggs – but the platypus and echidna are mammals that *do* lay eggs!

NAME _____ CLASS _____

ANSWERS: Most of these creatures here hatch out of eggs – except the mouse, the seal, the koala, the gorilla, the bat, the hammerhead shark and the squirrel..

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

AMAZING HOMES!

Animals use all different kinds of shelters! Can you match each of the ones below with the creature that lives in it?



ANSWERS: 1. F, 2. A, 3. E, 4. G, 5. D, 6. B, 7. C.

Creative Constructors

Different birds build different kinds of nests, depending on where they live and what they can make them out of! Here are a few creative examples!

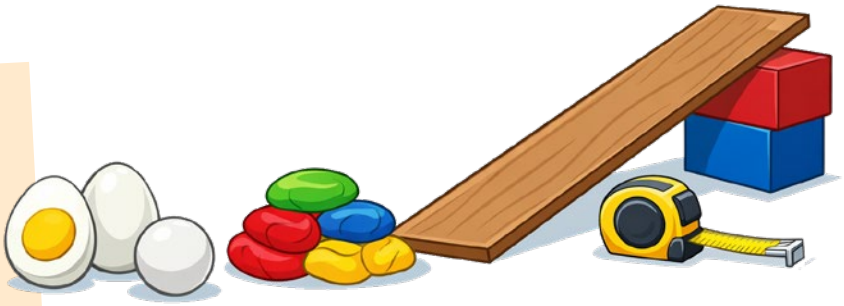


NAME _____ CLASS _____

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

ROLLING EGGS-PERIMENT!

Have you ever wondered *why* eggs are egg-shaped?
Try this fun experiment and you might get some ideas!



YOU'LL NEED

- One egg (hard-boiled, so it won't crack and make a mess!)
- A ping-pong ball
- Plasticine
- A wooden board and some blocks to make a ramp with
- A measuring tape

Birds come in many shapes... and they evolved for different purposes!

OVOID: A chicken egg is this shape! It's made to roll in a circle to keep it near the nest.

SPHERICAL: round, like a ping pong ball! Birds that nest in holes that eggs can't roll out of often lay eggs of this shape.

PEAR-SHAPED: These eggs are wide at one end and narrow at the other. Eggs this shape are laid by birds that nest on cliff ledges, as they can't roll far.

TAPERED: Long and thin, these eggs are laid by strong fliers like albatrosses. They have narrow bodies, so the eggs are narrow too!

HOW TO TRY IT:

1. Set up the ramp! It doesn't need to be very steep! There should be lots of room in front of it for objects to roll across.
2. Hold the ping pong ball and let it roll down the ramp. Use the measuring tape to measure how far it rolls.
3. Now, hold a hard-boiled egg at the top of the ramp so the top and the bottom of the egg are pointing towards the sides. Let it go! Measure how far it rolls.
4. Using the plasticine, make 'eggs' in the shapes listed here and test how they roll. Which ones roll furthest?
5. What did you notice about the way the different eggs rolled? How do you think their shapes affect how they roll?

© storytimemagazine.com 2026

WHAT MAKES THE BEST NEST?

In the story, the two gulls built a nest that they thought was best, but how would you make one? Follow the steps below to find out!



© storytimemagazine.com 2026

THE BEST NEST!



© storytimemagazine.com 2026

NAME _____ CLASS _____