

#1 Animal Architects Try-it

Watching Wildlife activity p140



Many animals make homes or nests from paper, twigs, or wax. Find some animal homes in your neighborhood. Don't disturb them. Try to figure out what each is made of and which animal made it.

To find out what kinds of building materials the animals in your area like, try this:

- 1) Collect hair from a hairbrush, cotton balls, short pieces of string or yarn, and scraps of paper and cloth.
- 2) Place these items on a tray. Leave the tray outside on the ground. Or place the items in a mesh bag and hang the bag from a tree branch or other object.
- 3) Observe which animals collect the different building materials. (Spring is an especially good time to do this – Do you know why?)

Where did you place the materials?

Material	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Who Took it?
Hair				
Cotton				
Paper				
Hay				
Yarn				
Dryer lint				

Can you find the animal homes that used the materials you provided? Where were they? Can you guess what kind of animals are they?

#4 Earthworm Observations

Watching Wildlife activity p140

We'll do this one during our meeting.

How can you tell which end is the head?

What are some differences between the worm's belly and back?

How do they feel?

What do they look like?

What happens when you shine a light on the earthworm's tail?

What happens when you shine a light on the earthworm's head?

Do you think the earthworm can see light?

Why?

#5 Ant Adventure

Watching Wildlife activity p141



Ants are very interesting animals. They live together in a group called a *colony*. All of the ants in a colony work to keep their nest healthy and safe. Some ants raise the young, some gather food, some defend the nest. Learn more about this very hard-working little insect by doing this activity.

You will need:

- Cookie, cracker, or breadcrumbs.
- Magnifying glass, if you have one

- 1) Look for ants in the cracks of a sidewalk, along bases of buildings, or in the yard.
- 2) Place some crumbs near an ant and see what it does.
- 3) Try using different kinds of crumbs to see if the ants like one kind better than another.

What kind of crumbs do the ants like best?

Why do you think they like those best?

Does the ant tell other ants about the food it found? _____

How can you tell?

How long did it take? _____

