

Mondays at the Museum

(at home!)

This week we are looking at **birds' nests**.

Below is a picture of a bird's nest holding eggs from our new exhibition *Capturing Nature: early photography at the Australian Museum 1857-1893*.

Eggs are also important at Easter. Popular Easter traditions you might be familiar with include eating chocolate eggs and decorating chicken eggs.



Chick in a Bird's Nest

What you'll need:	Substitute
Paper plate	Piece of cardboard cut into a semi-circle
Brown paint	Colouring in pencils/pens, scrap paper or brown paper to glue to your nest
Raffia	Use your imagination! What else do birds make nests from? Wool, twigs, dried leaves, grass...
Glue and sticky tape	Staples
Paper straw	Pen or a twig
Coloured cardboard (we've used yellow, orange and a little bit of pink)	Coloured paper, scrap cardboard
Pen or marker	

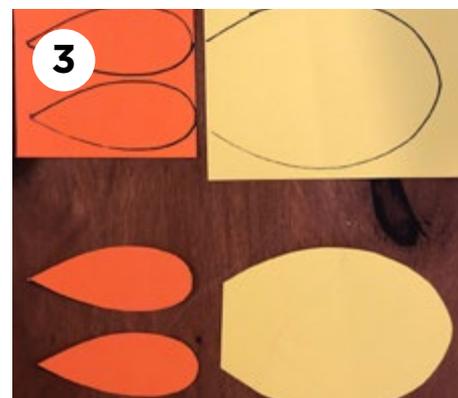
Instructions



1 Cut your paper plate in half to make a semi-circle. Paint or colour one side brown.



2 Once the paint is dry, use your glue to stick some raffia or other materials to create a bird's nest.



3 Use the template on next page to cut out your chick. You can print it on coloured cardboard, or print it on normal paper.



4 Glue the wings to the chick's body. Make a little tuft of feathers to sit on top of its head, and a little beak from a square of paper. Glue these to the chick's body too. Draw some eyes for your chick using a pen or marker.

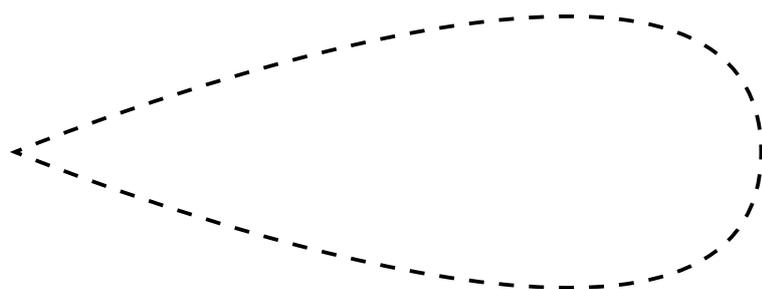
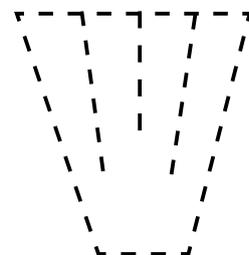
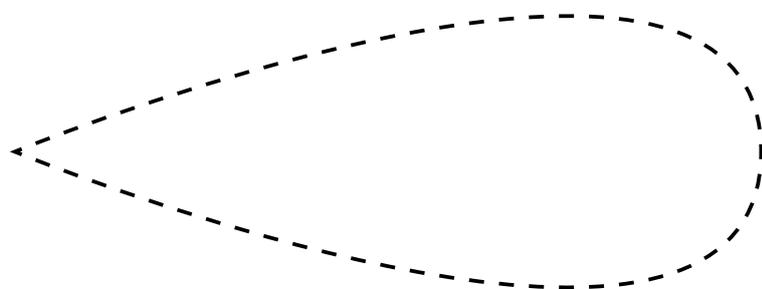
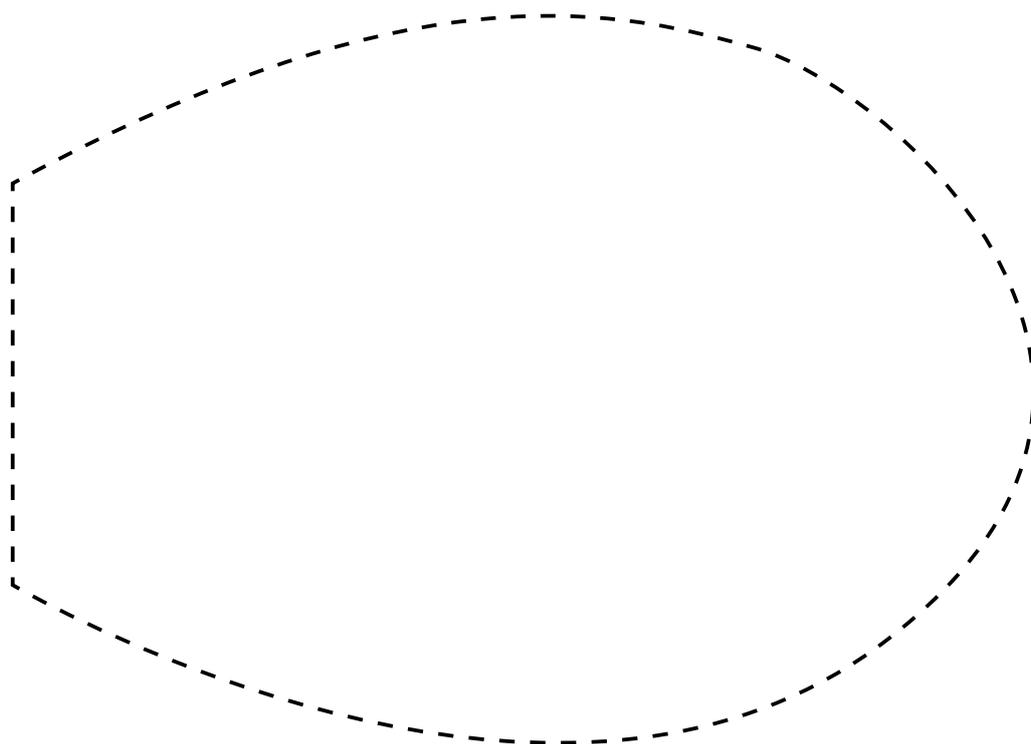


5 Turn your chick over and sticky tape your paper straw on the back side.



6 If you like, you can sticky tape your chick to the back of the paper plate to keep them together. It's also fun to keep them apart so your chick can be a moving puppet.

Template



Extra Time:

1. Eggs come in many shapes, sizes and colours. Look at some pictures of different types of eggs and make an egg for your bird's nest. What colour will it be? Will it have any patterns on it?
2. Look at the photos of a bird's nest on the first page from *Capturing Nature*. Can you describe what the nest is made of?
3. Collecting bird's nests and eggs was a popular hobby in Australia 200 years ago. Can you think of any reasons why?
4. Have you got some spare eggs at home? You and your family could try decorating some eggs for Easter. Here's a video with instructions and some interesting history from English Heritage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjHeWTgPgT8>
5. Can you do some research and find two reasons why we eat chocolate eggs or decorate real eggs at Easter?