

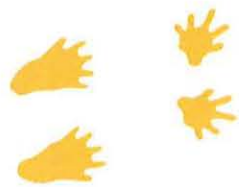


Meeting 20 Animal Homes



Here are three fun activities that teach Eager Beavers about animal homes. Adapt the activities to meet the needs of your Eager Beavers or create your own activities.





MEETING LENGTH

60-80 MINUTES

- Opening (5 minutes)
- Beaver Tales (10 minutes)
- Activities (40-60 minutes)
- Closing (5 minutes)

Opening

Using a beaver puppet, greet each of the children by name and welcome them all to Eager Beavers. Have the children sit in a circle.

5

MINUTES



Listen to a story about animal homes.

CHIP COMPLETED

ANIMAL HOMES



Beaver Tales

A BEAVER LODGE

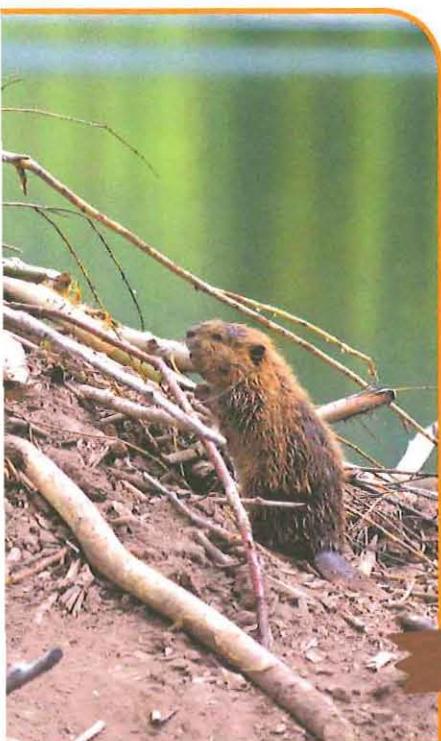
10

MINUTES

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Book about animal homes
- *Beavers are Busy* by Jennifer Gooch (AdventSource, 2011)

Ask the children, "What is a home?" Encourage responses that include apartments, trailers, or other alternatives to a house. Read a book about animal homes such as *Welcome Home, Bear: A Book of Animal Habitats* (Sung Na, 2015), *Homes (Picture This)* (Nouvion, 2015), *Animals Building Homes* (Perkins, 2004) or a book of your choice. Then show the children the beaver lodge from the *Beavers are Busy* book. Then tell the children that during Eager Beavers they will learn more about animals and their homes.





The following activities fulfill the requirements for the Animal Homes chip.

Building a Beaver Home

15

MINUTES

1

ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Break some of the toothpicks into halves and thirds. Each child will need one handful of toothpick pieces, in addition to a handful of unbroken toothpicks.

Give each child a cup and toothpicks. Have them poke the toothpicks into the cup from all the sides and the bottom. They should try to leave about 0.25 in (0.5 cm) of an inch of the toothpick on the outside of the cup. Now have the children look inside of the cups to get an idea of what the inside of a beaver's lodge looks like.

For the outside of the lodge, each child will need approximately 6-8 oz of dough. Have them cover the outside of their lodges with pieces of dough. (Remind them that the beavers use mud to cover their lodges.) Then give each child a handful of flat toothpicks that have previously been broken in halves and thirds. Have the children press these pieces all over the outside of their lodges to simulate the look of sticks.

Once the children have completed the lodge, discuss how beavers build their homes using their paws and teeth. Remind them that God loves all animals so much that they were each created with instincts to take care of themselves and that God loves each of them, as well.

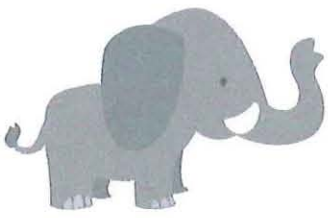
MATERIALS NEEDED

- Plastic foam cups, 9 oz
- Flat toothpicks
- Play dough, 6-8 oz per child (see recipe on Pinterest or p. 181)



Find the **Play Dough Recipe** at [Pinterest.com/AdventSource](https://www.pinterest.com/AdventSource)





ACTIVITY

2

Creature Moves

15

MINUTES

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pictures of animals
- Chalk or masking tape

WHAT YOU DO

You'll need an open area such as a gym or playground for this game.

First, tell the children that not only did God create animals so they would know how to build homes; God also created them with special movements that would help them gather food, escape from danger, or move easily from place to place. Then show the children pictures of animals and ask them to name a movement the animal makes.



Elephant Uses its trunk (long nose) to pick leaves or suck up water; have children use their arms to simulate elephant trunk movement.

Rabbit Uses its long back legs to hop away from danger; have children practice hopping.

Bird Uses its wings to fly to warm places; have children flap their arms to simulate wings.

Horse Uses its long legs to gallop to safety; have the children practice galloping.

Seal Uses its front flippers to drag itself to the water; have the children lay on their tummies with legs together and pull themselves forward with their arms.



This game can be played in a variety of ways.

VERSION 1

Call out the name of an animal previously discussed. Have the children make the animal's motion until you shout, "Freeze!" Then they hold the position until you call out the next animal.

VERSION 2

Have the children line up, shoulder to shoulder. Then have them put their arms out straight from their sides. This is how much distance should be between them and the children on either side. With chalk or masking tape, draw a finish line. Then call out an animal's name and have the children imitate that animal while trying to get to the other side. Repeat using different animals. To help the children transition from this noisy, active game to the next activity, have them crawl back to their chairs like turtles (slowly with no talking).



Animal Home Collage

WHAT YOU DO

Share with the children that some animals build their homes out of objects that they find. Show them the bird's nest and share that birds often weave in pieces of plastic, gum wrappers, yarn, grass clippings, leaves, and twigs to make their homes.

Give each child a line drawing of a bird's nest. Let them choose from a variety of found objects. Have them glue the objects onto the nest, filling it in as best as they can.

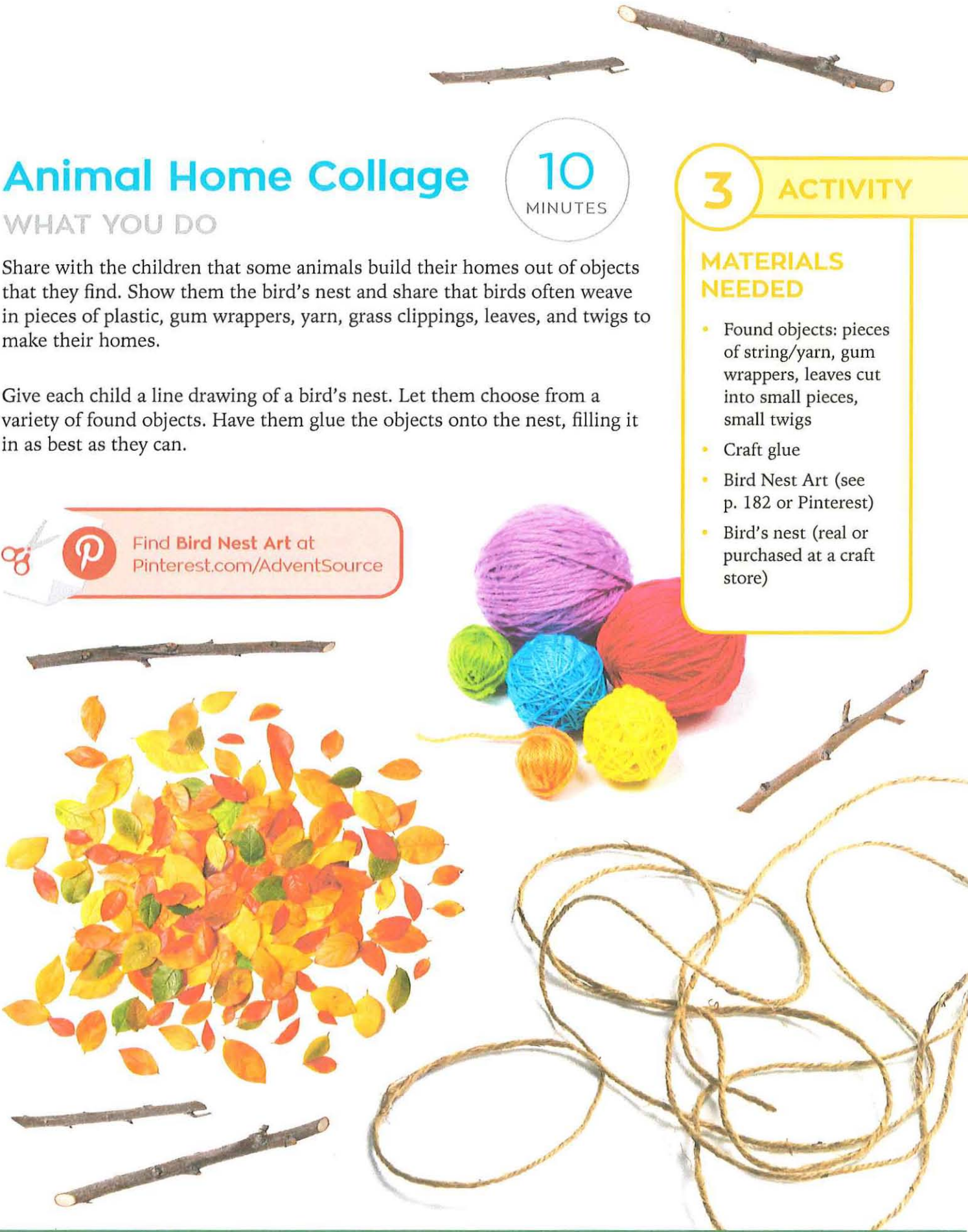
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MINUTES

3 ACTIVITY

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Found objects: pieces of string/yarn, gum wrappers, leaves cut into small pieces, small twigs
- Craft glue
- Bird Nest Art (see p. 182 or Pinterest)
- Bird's nest (real or purchased at a craft store)

  Find Bird Nest Art at [Pinterest.com/AdventSource](https://www.pinterest.com/AdventSource)



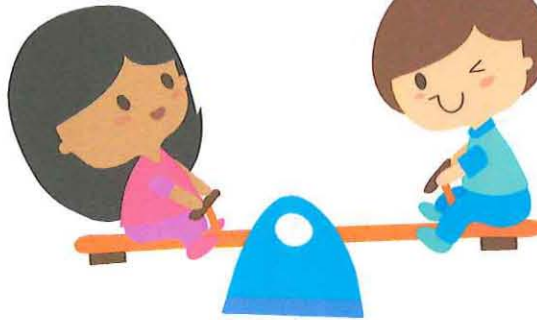


Closing

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MINUTES



Gather the children into a circle and ask them a specific question about what they learned during Eager Beavers. Say a prayer and then ask for an Eager Beaver to volunteer to pray for the group. Rejoin the rest of the Adventurers for the closing program.



Chip: Animal Homes