

For Creative Minds

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Home-Building Materials

Match the material and the animal that uses it to build its home.

Mud Dauber Wasp



Osprey



Paper Wasp



Spittle Bug



This bird builds its nest in high areas near water using **sticks and tree branches**.

This small insect makes a sticky **foam** home along plant stems or leaves.

This type of wasp gathers fibers from dead **wood** and plant stems. It mixes those fibers with **saliva** (spit) to make its papery home.

This type of wasp scrapes up mud that it carries to a well-protected location to build a tube nest. Different muds give the tube different colors.

Which of these animals make their home under a rotting log?

Ants



Centipede



Salamander



Snake



Beetle Larva



Earthworm



Slug



Answers: sticks and tree branches-osprey; foam-spittle bug; saliva and wood-paper wasp; mud-mud dauber wasp. Rotting Log: all



Birds usually use natural material like grasses, leaves, sticks, moss, and mud to build their nests. Sometimes, when a bird is building its nest near humans, it recycles man-made things it finds by using them in their nest. Some of the more unusual items found in bird nests include:

- light bulbs
- coat hangers
- barbed wire
- paper
- plastic
- glass
- nails
- aluminum foil
- cigarette butts

Can you find the cigarette butts (white cylinders) in this northern mockingbird nest?

A snag is a dead tree that is still standing. In North America, about 85 species of birds, at least 50 mammal species, and roughly a dozen reptiles and amphibians rely on snags for shelter and nesting.

Can you think of an animal that might live in a snag?



Snag



Painted Turtle



Snail

And some animals like turtles and snails have shells that are part of their bodies (exoskeleton) to help protect them. It's like carrying around a home on their backs!

Which Are Animal Homes?

Which of these are animal homes? What kind of animal do you think might live in a home like this? Have you ever seen an animal home like any of these?



honeybee comb



muskrat lodge



woodchuck burrow



chipmunk hole



spider web



tree cavity



nest



red fox den

Answers: all

Match the Animal to its Home

Match the animal to its home.



Answers: 1D; 2F, 3E, 4C, 5B, 6A