



Sylvan Dell Publishing

Science and Math through Literature

Loon Chase

Bird Life Cycle

Preparation: Cut into sentence strips, laminate if desired, and place in a “center.” Have children put the events in order. Children may work alone or in small groups. Cards are in order but should be mixed up when cut apart.

The female lays her eggs in the nest. Depending on the type of bird, she will lay between two to six eggs.

She then sits on the nest to keep the eggs warm (**incubate**) until they hatch.

While the female is incubating the eggs, the male will guard them. If a predator gets too close, the male will make a lot of noise and fly around to try to distract the predator from the nest. He will also deliver food to the female as she sits on the nest.

The baby birds **hatch** out of the eggs.

It takes a few weeks for their feathers to develop and for them to be big enough to fly but they can swim after a few hours.

The parents provide less and less food to teach the fledglings how to find food. After a short amount of time the parent birds chase the fledglings out of the nest.

Many birds will lay several groups of eggs (**broods**) a year. Sometimes the female lays more eggs within days of one brood leaving the nest.

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