

Animal Habitats

Make a Jell-O Nest!

1. Mix a package of Jell-O. Before it sets, put part of the liquid into a small container with a lid or sealed top, like a baby food jar or resealable plastic bag. Pour the rest into a mixing bowl.
2. Insulate the small container the way an animal might insulate its nest. You could bury the container in leaves and sticks in the yard or use materials in your house, like socks, to burrow it.
3. Keep the container in its warm, insulated place while the mixing bowl with the rest of the Jell-O stays out in the air—in the same area as your “nest” container.
4. When the bowl of Jell-O has set (gotten firm), uncover and check you “nest.” If it’s still liquid, you’ll know your insulation would have kept the animals inside warm. If it set, try building your animal home again!
5. Share what happened with your Junior friends, and talk about the “warmest” nest designs. What made them work well? What materials didn’t work as well?