



Vocabulary

- Aesthetic: having a sense of the beautiful
- Brood: a number of young produced or hatched at one time
- Circulation: the act of moving in a circle or circuit, or flowing
- Green roof: a roof covered with vegetation; designed for its aesthetic value and to optimize energy conservation
- Marauders: those who raid for plunder
- Roofing Paper: a heavy paper infused with tar used to waterproof a roof

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Monitor animal behavior
- Explain the benefits of a green roof and connect these benefits to larger structures

National Education Standards:

- National Standards for Art Education
 - [Using knowledge of structures and functions](#)
- Common Core
 - [CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.9-10.3/11-12.3](#)

What you'll find in this packet:

- Pre- and Post-Activity Discussion ideas
- Step-by-step Activity Procedure
- Nest box assembly instructions

What you'll need:

- Assembly instructions (provided)
- Wood
- Galvanized box nails
- Brass wood screw
- Roofing paper
- Soil
- Plants

Teacher Preparation

- Assemble construction materials
- Print assembly instructions for students
- Be sure students are aware of all necessary safety precautions before building the nest box



Pre-Activity Discussion

- What is a green roof?
- Why should we provide habitats for bluebirds?

Activity Procedure

- Arrange students into groups and provide them with assembly instructions (provided)
- Review safety precautions
- Assist students with nest box construction
- Once nest boxes are complete, place in the pollinator/butterfly habitat garden (if applicable) or in an open green space near the classroom
- Have student groups observe and monitor the inhabitants of the nest box
 - Students should also care for plants in the green roof and clean out the old nests between nesting broods

Post-Activity Discussion

- Have any bluebirds nested in your nest box?
 - Have any other birds attempted to inhabit the nest?
- How many broods have you observed nesting this season?



Bluebird Nest Boxes with Green Roofs made by Smithsonian Gardens Green Team