

Session title	Nests, eggs and baby birds	
Key question	What do eggs and young birds need?	
Session description	Join us and explore the life cycle of a young swan from egg to hatching and beyond. Discover why birds build nests and what features they need to keep the eggs and young birds safe.	
Key Stage	KS1	
Duration	30 mins	

Curriculum links	KS1 Science - Identify and name a variety of common animals. - Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different types of animals. - Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.		
Learning outcomes	Most learners...	More able learners...	
	Will be able to say where baby birds come from (eggs) Will be able to describe some of the features swans choose for their nesting site (on grass, near water, with materials for building, surrounded by food because herbivorous) Y2 - be able to identify the habitat which swans prefer for nesting	Will be able to describe what happens inside a developing egg (the cygnet grows and the yolk gets used up) Will be able to explain how parent swans help their cygnets (defending the nest, helping them to feed, swim and fly) Y2 - be able to describe some basic needs of swans (water, food, shelter)	
Key vocabulary	Egg Habitat Defend Fox	Yolk Swan Predator Shell	Nest Cygnet Prey Air space (bubble)

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are given a brief intro to WWT Martin Mere and are introduced to the key question: What do eggs and baby birds need?	
Activity 1: Observation	5 mins
Learners observe the swans on swan lake or another nearby pond, as available.	
Activity 2: 'Swan family life' play.	15 mins
Learners use role-play to act out the family life of swans. Some of the children will be given parts in the play, such as the parent swans, the cygnet, the hungry fox and even the egg.	
Plenary: Relating the play to live swans in their habitat.	5 mins
Learners go on a walk to see swans, nests, eggs and cygnets (or other species as available) to consolidate learning outcomes. They discuss what they have learned in pairs, using mini whiteboards if appropriate.	