

# Build Like a Bird

Cliff swallows build mud nests on rock walls or buildings. Try building a small model to see how this works.

## WHAT CLIFF SWALLOWS USE

Wet mud

Rock cliff face

Their beaks

## WHAT YOU NEED

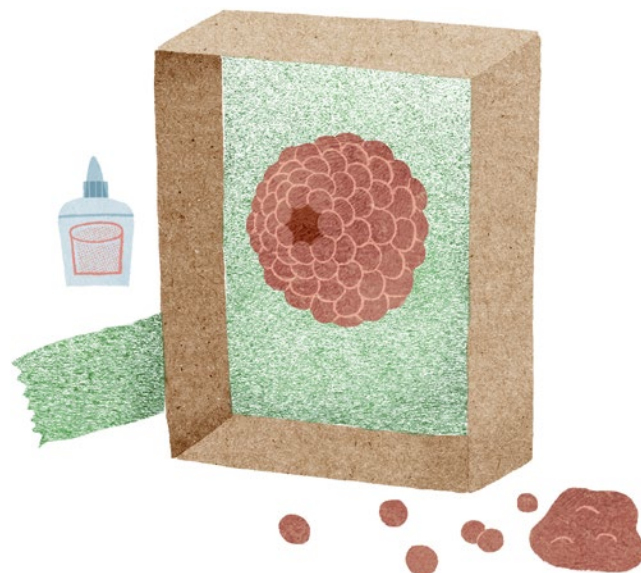
Air-dry clay

Coarse sandpaper

Shoebbox

Glue

Your hands



## WHAT YOU DO

1. Cover the bottom of the shoebox with the sandpaper. Glue it on securely.
2. Roll the clay into marble-sized pellets. Use them to make an outline of a small circle about 3 inches (8 cm) wide on the sandpaper.
3. Add more clay pellets to make a smaller circle on top of the first one. Keep adding layers.
4. After you add about 3 or 4 layers, stand the box on its end. Use something heavy to prop it up if you need to.
5. Add more clay pellets to form a hollow cone shape. Leave a hole in the middle for the door.

Cliff swallow nests are bigger than this. Building a bird's nest is difficult—if you are not a bird!