

POLLINATORS

Lesson Plan

Wonderful Wasp Nests

Lesson Plan for *Wasps*

Grade 3

Objective

To help students compare and contrast a text and a website about wasp nests.

Things Needed

- *Wasps* book
- Access to the “Wasps” web page on the Pop! website:
<https://popbooksonline.com/pollinators/wasps>
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity

Read *Wasps* out loud as a class. Then open the “Wasps” web page in your internet browser. Pull up the “Explore Links” tab and click on the Wonderopolis article “How Do Wasps Build Their Nests?” This article can also be found here: <https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-do-wasps-build-their-nests>

Activity

To start, review the main ideas of Chapter 3 (“Wasp Nests”) by asking the following questions:

- Why do wasps build nests? (Answer: to protect their larvae)
- Where do wasps build nests? (Answers: underground, inside trees, or inside walls)
- What kind of wasps most often make nests underground? (Answer: solitary wasps)
- What are social wasp nests made out of? (Answer: wood)

Then, read the “How Do Wasps Build Their Nests?” article out loud. First, ask students, “What information did we already know from the book?” Write their answers on the whiteboard, using the following sample answers as a guide:

- Some wasp nests are made out of wood.
- Wasps chew wood bits to create pulp.
- The nests are made so young wasps can be born and develop.



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Next, ask students, “What new information did we learn from the web page?” Again, write their answers on the board, using the following sample answers as a guide:

- The wasp queen begins the building process.
- The queen’s saliva breaks down the wood fibers to form the paper pulp.
- Paper wasps build small, umbrella-shaped nests under overhangs.
- Hornets build large, football-shaped nests that hang in trees.
- Yellow jackets make nests underground.
- Wasp nests are made up of many hexagonal cells.
- Some wasps use mud to strengthen their nests.
- A queen wasp has to find a new nesting site each spring.

Evaluation

Could students answer questions about wasp nests based on the information in the book? Could they identify the similarities and differences between the book and the web page?

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.2).

