



Edible *Maiasaura* Nests

Like birds, dinosaurs laid eggs. However, only a few dinosaurs seem to have looked after their babies once they hatched. Dinosaurs like *Maiasaura* made nests, carefully arranged their eggs in a spiral pattern, and kept them warm. When the eggs hatched, the babies were totally dependent on their parents. Mothers fed their babies in the nest by spitting out a nourishing paste of half-digested plants. In this activity, make your own edible “nest” out of ingredients more suited to human tastebuds.

Materials

English muffin or rice cake
Nut butter, or your favorite spread
Puffed rice cereal

Shredded coconut
Green food coloring
Maiasaura nest picture (page 2)

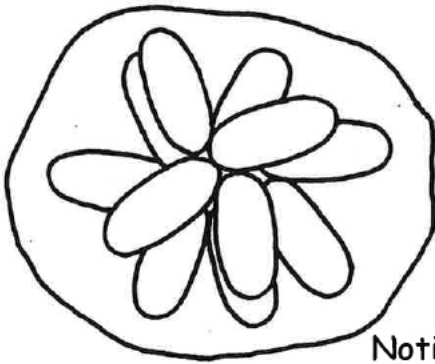
Directions

1. Adult help recommended: **Add** a scoop of shredded coconut in a bag with a few drops of green food coloring. **Close** the top and **knead** the bag until all of the coconut is tinted green.
2. **Place** an open English muffin on a plate. The English muffin represents the shallow hole that the *Maiasaura* dug in the ground to make a nest. *Optional*: toast the muffin.
3. **Spread** a thin layer of nut butter over the top of the English muffin. The nut butter represents the loose soil that was inside the nest.
4. **Arrange** puffed rice cereal in a spiral pattern on top of the nut butter. Use the drawing on the next page to see what this looks like. The puffed rice represents the *Maiasaura* eggs.
5. **Sprinkle** a spoonful of green coconut over the nest and the eggs. The coconut represents the leaves and plants that the *Maiasaura* uses to keep the eggs warm.
6. **Enjoy** your snack!



7. *Optional: Make* it sweet! Having a dino-themed party? Try a sweeter version of this snack. Just use a cookie instead of an English muffin, frosting instead of nut butter, and white jelly beans instead of puffed rice cereal .

MAIASAURA (MY-uh-SAW-ra)
with nest full of eggs



View of nest from above.
Notice the spiral arrangement of the eggs.