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# How Bright Bird Used the Big6

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*Based on a story by Brian Armour*

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/brianga/big6brightbird.html>

The **first step** was to '**Be sure you understand the problem**'; so she thought about it. Her aim was to raise a healthy family that season but she did not know instinctively how to do it. What was her **TASK- (THE PROBLEM SHE HAD TO SOLVE)?**

**She understood that the nest would have to be:**

- ❁ big enough to hold her eggs and the growing chicks
- ❁ well protected and strong enough to withstand storms and high winds
- ❁ high enough to be out of reach of predators
- ❁ snug and warm enough for the comfort of her family.



The **second step** was to '**Identify**' the **best strategies to locate the information:**

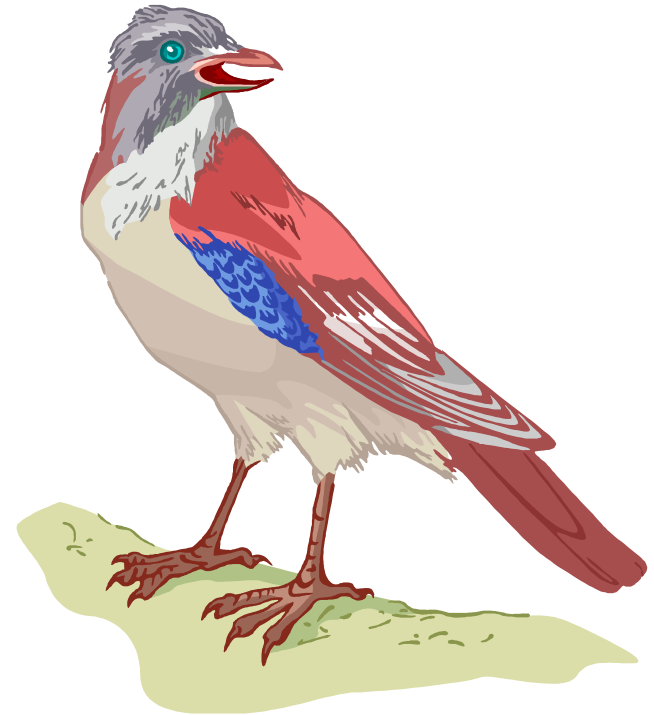
- ✿ Why not check out what **other birds** do? After all, these birds had survived for many generations so they must have been doing something right! That seemed a good idea so she went on to the third step.



The **third step** was to '**Gather**' (**LOCATE AND ACCESS**) the information from these sources.

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- ✿ She went out into the forest to see how other birds made nests.



# What information did Bright Bird gather?


- She observed the crow which made nests high in trees using strong sticks; but she did not admire the untidy jumble that crows made with the sticks and felt sure the nests would not weather the vicious storms that sometimes shook the forest.
- She inspected the mud nests that the swallows made in the sheltered crevices of rocky cliffs beside the forest - nests that were so strong that they lasted for many years, needing only a new lining and some small repairs each year. She could see that the mud nests would endure best if sheltered from the heavy rains.
- Then there were the nests of the weaver birds into which soft grass and animal hair were entwined to hold the nest together and anchor it to the branch.



It was time to go on to the **fourth step**:


(how will I use the information?)

**'Select the best solution, using the information that is most relevant to the problem.'**



\* This is what she said to herself: "I'll borrow some ideas from the crow, the swallow and the weaver bird, but my nest will be just what **I** want, to suit the needs of raising **my** family - large, sturdy, safe and comfortable."

Now, ideas are great but they do not get the job done just by themselves. It was time to take the **fifth step: Integrate the information you have selected with your own ideas, to demonstrate your solution to the problem.** (SYNTHESIS)



- ✿ She laid a platform of sturdy, criss-crossed sticks across the fork of a tree, high up but sheltered from the rain by the canopy above.
- ✿ She brought sticky mud to cement these sticks together and anchor them to the branches of the tree.
- ✿ She also shaped the mud into a deep hollow in which she built the rest of the nest.
- ✿ She wove grass and animal hair into a circular pattern and placed this inside the hollow, fastening it to the twig foundation using many strands of hair and grass.
- ✿ The deep sides and bottom of the nest were lined with this woven hair-grass combination.

# GIVE CREDIT TO YOUR SOURCES!

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- ✿ When we do research, it is always necessary to tell our audience where we found our information. This is called 'citing your sources.'
- ✿ To show other birds that she had borrowed some nest-making ideas, our feathered problem-solver attached a crow's feather to a twig, stuck a swallow's feather in the mud and sewed a weaver's feather into the lining of the nest.

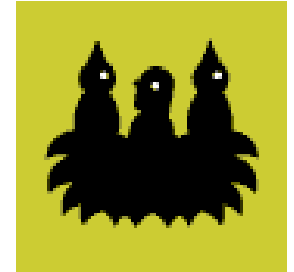
# The **sixth step**: evaluate

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- ✿ She snuggled down into the nest to "**eXamine the finished product**".
- ✿ She made her finished product better by adjusting a twig here and there and adding further mud where it was a bit thin.

# Present the Product

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- ✿ Bright Bird told her mate that all was ready for the new family to be laid and raised.
- ✿ Several months later a healthy brood of youngsters added their splash of colour to the forest. In the years that followed, these young ones became grown-ups and learned from their mother the new nest-making ways that were so successful.
- ✿ Nowadays, visitors to the forest are thankful that the Bright Bird species has been so good at bringing up families. There are more of them to give the visitors the great pleasure of glimpsing them as they play and hunt in the forest thickets.