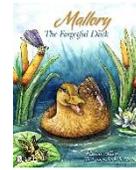


# Mallory the Forgetful Duck Lesson Plans



**Make baby birds in their nests:** Have students make their own baby birds.

Materials needed: 1 Brown paper bag; 1 Craft Pom, any color, size 1 ½ inch; 1 Plastic Easter egg, any color; 2 Wiggle eyes, any color; Glue; Scissors

Directions: Cut the brown paper bag in half. Set aside the top portion to use later. Roll down the sides of the bottom portion so that the egg will nestle in the bottom of the bag with the sides folded down around it.

Glue wiggle eyes to the Pom. Then grab the top portion of the brown bag and cut small triangles for the bird's wings and beak. Glue them carefully to the Pom in the appropriate places. Then place the finished Pom (baby bird) inside the plastic Easter egg, and put the egg on its new nest. You can glue the egg to the nest if desired. But, I have found that kids like to pick it up and nestle the egg in their hands.



**Discussion:** Talk about how different kinds of birds have different color eggs. For instance Mallard Ducks have green eggs while Great Blue Herons have blue eggs. Different birds also require different habitats. For instance the Canada Goose nests in a marsh while an Osprey nests on a utility pole. Ask children: Why do you think that is? To hide from predators? Do you think the size of the bird makes a difference? How do birds know which baby birds belong to them? Do they have a natural instinct?

Here are some details about each bird from the story and their habitats:

- Mallard Duck: nest in grassy wetlands near ponds; nest made from grass, leaves and feathers; pale green eggs
- Great Blue Heron: nest in trees of wooded swamps; nest made of twigs and leaves; blue eggs
- Oystercatcher: nest in sandy beaches; nest made from crushed shells; buff color eggs with brown spots

- Canada Goose: nest in marsh or grassy wetlands; nest made from grass, moss and feathers; cream color eggs
- Osprey: nest on utility poles or channel markers; nest made from cornstalks and branches; pink eggs with brown spots



**Write a story about a bird or other animal:** Choose from two writing templates on [OllytheOyster.com/kidspage](http://OllytheOyster.com/kidspage). One is a half-fold template and the other is a quarter-fold template. They are both easy to make, however, the half-fold allows for a little more room to illustrate the story. The half-fold template also has a space for an author's bio.

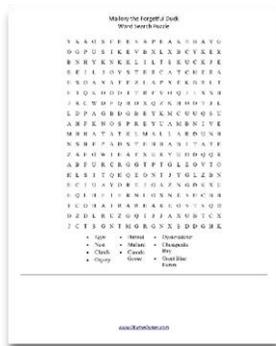
Print the template and fold so that the pages form the story. Read the prompts on each page to guide you in figuring out how the pages should fold together. It may be helpful to staple the edges of the spine, or hole-punch the edges and tie string through the holes.

Make one "book" for each student. Have the children fill in the blanks on each page of their story. Each page has a written prompt to help them write their story. Then they can go back and illustrate each page.

You may find it helpful to place the story under a projector and guide students with each page.

Once students are finished, have them volunteer to come up in front of the class and read their stories to the class. I have found that students are very proud of finishing their "book" and enjoy sharing it.

**Homemade birdfeeders:** You can find the instructions for three homemade birdfeeders on my blog (including a shoebox lid feeder, paper towel tube feeder, and milk carton feeder) at [ElaineAnnAllen.com/homemade-birdfeeders](http://ElaineAnnAllen.com/homemade-birdfeeders). This is a great way to observe different types of birds in a safe setting.



**Vocabulary:** You can find a word search puzzle with key vocabulary terms (including Mallard, Great Blue Heron, Oystercatcher, etc.) on [OllytheOyster.com/kidspage](http://OllytheOyster.com/kidspage).