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** *(M-Y-u-h-SA\-W-ra)*

with nest full of eggs

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