



**C.O.D.E.
GREEN**

WALLOWOLOGY
YOUTH PROGRAM

MUD!

Mushy, Messy Mud

It's early spring and the ground is thawing and the rain is falling- there is sure to be lots of mud outside to explore.

A scientist might describe mud as a mixture of water and soil. Depending on your soil, the mud it makes might be sticky, gooey, smoochy- it can even be different colors!

Did you Know?

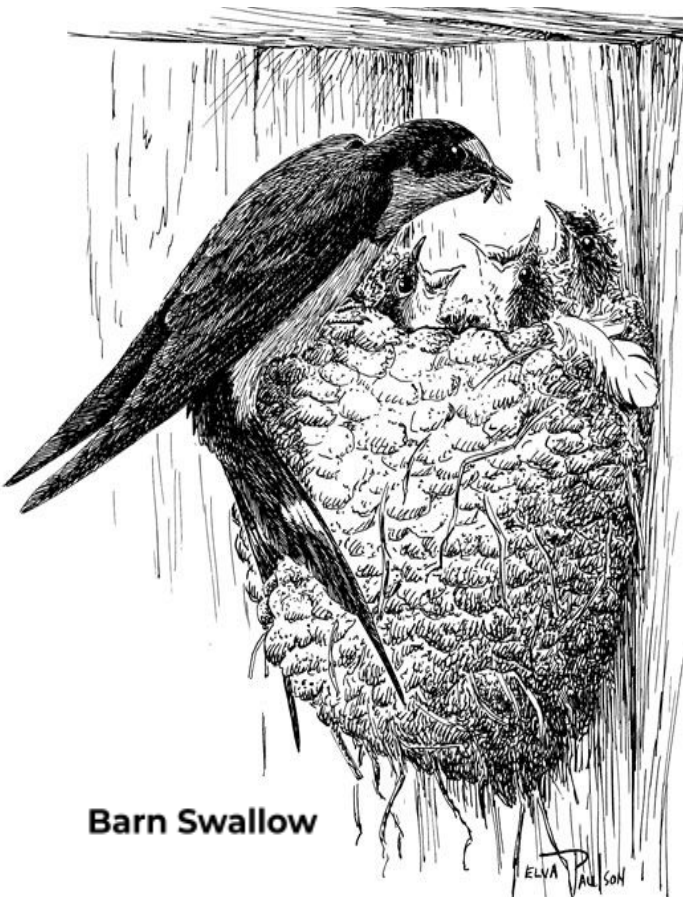
Mud is a Building Material

Beavers move logs and sticks into the mud to form a strong base for their dam. Then, they carry even more mud with their front paws to build up and make the dam even stronger.

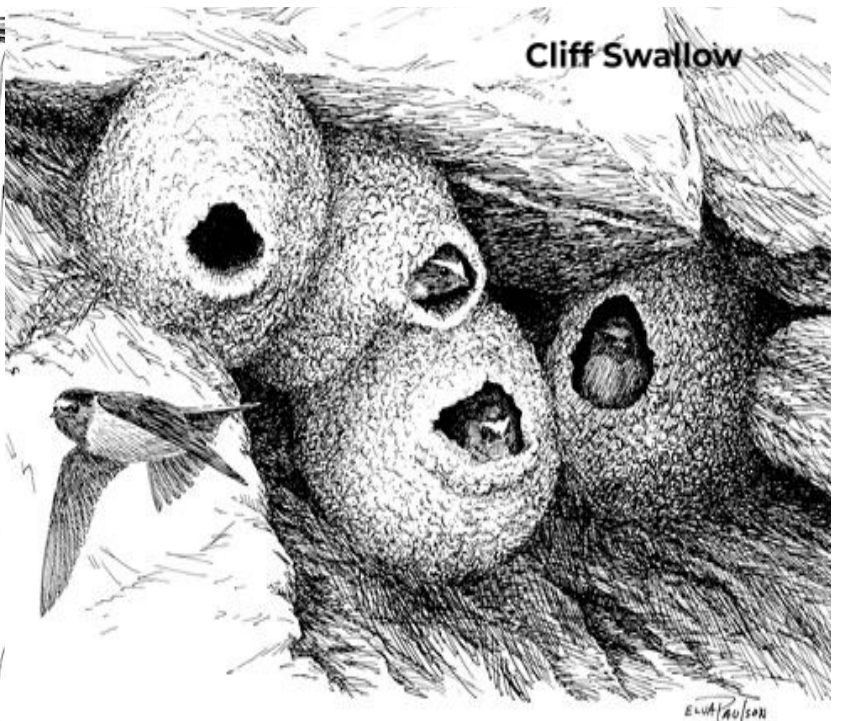
American robins build their nests with twigs, dry grass, mud, and more. The mud helps give the nest its round shape, keeping the eggs and hatchlings safe and warm for several weeks.

Both the barn and cliff swallow parents build their nests from small mud pellets that they collect in their beaks. The inside of the nest is lined with grass, hair and feathers.

Enjoy coloring the pictures below:



Barn Swallow



Cliff Swallow

What differences do you notice between the two types of nests?

Mud is a Winter Home

Some freshwater turtles burrow into mud at the bottom of the pond each fall and stay mostly inactive until spring.

Mud is a Place to Hide

Dragonfly nymphs camouflage themselves on or in the mud at the bottom of the pond as they wait for prey to swim or crawl by.

Mud is a Place to Eat

“Mud-puddling” is a common behavior in which butterflies seek out mud (and other gooey, brown things found on the ground) and suck up the liquid and salts.

Mud is a Safe Way to Travel

If you’re a worm, a wet, muddy surface gives you a chance to move above ground without drying out.

Did You Know text is from “Marvelous, Mushy Mud.” massaudubon.org/youngexplorers



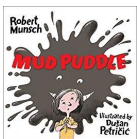
Are you a “Mudologist”?

Try the activities below. Be sure to wear washable clothes before you go have some mushy muddy fun!

Make your own mud by mixing water and soil. Find out how much water your soil can absorb before it becomes mud. How quickly were you able to make the mud? How long does it take your mud to dry out?

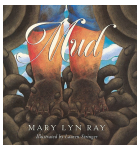
Make some mud creations! Experiment with shaping your mud into different shapes and structures using your hands, sand molds or even cookie cutters. Find objects around your yard or neighborhood, like leaves, twigs or seeds, to decorate your creations.

*Need some help appreciating mud? Listen to these read-alouds online.
Have fun listening (and getting messy) together!*



Mud Puddle by Robert Munsch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0bXt89g1Aew>



Mud by Mary Lynn Ray

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrPdmG-ccAs>