

Dinosaur Nest Census

HOST ONLY - preparation and story

Includes answers. Keep these pages with an adult.

The survey desk received two conflicting nest strips, three observer records and an out-of-order checklist. Recover the data and read the census slots. Collect five named badge digits and use the final sheet. Every clue is on the table; ask the host for one hint at a time.

1. Print one player pack and two record sheets per team. Keep the host answers and all three hint levels with the adult.
2. Keep every clue as a full sheet at one table. Put the final sheet face down until all five results are recorded. Nothing needs cutting, folding or hiding.
3. Give each child a pencil. Choose a reader, recorder and checker, and swap jobs after each clue. Use one team for 2-4 children or two teams for 5-6.

Players: 4; teams: 1. Print one player and prop set per team. Invitations and certificates: 4 each.

Paper and pencils are enough. Keep whole sheets at one table; nothing needs cutting, folding or hiding.

Dinosaur Nest Census

HOST ONLY - solution guide

1. Strip: 5

Different positions are 1, 3, 4, 6, 8. There are 5 differences.

2. Observer: 8

Rin has Pen; Val has Card; Wes has Map. Wes's item gives 8.

3. Survey: 6

The only order is Read chart > Check nest > Record marks > File census. Position 3 carries 6.

4. Nest: 5

Only row 3 has NEST followed immediately by 5. Other rows have changed or reversed letters.

5. Point: 5

The route ends at row 3, column 3. That cell gives 5.

6. Final: 55856

Nest > Strip > Observer > Point > Survey

Dinosaur Nest Census

HOST ONLY - timeline and paper check

3 minutes: Read the story, show the badge record and choose roles.

3 minutes: Solve Strip. Offer one hint level at a time if wanted.

6 minutes: Solve Observer. Offer one hint level at a time if wanted.

5 minutes: Solve Survey. Offer one hint level at a time if wanted.

undefined minutes: Solve Nest. Offer one hint level at a time if wanted.

4 minutes: Solve Point. Offer one hint level at a time if wanted.

5 minutes: Use the five results on the final sheet.

2 minutes: Read the ending and thank each teammate.

Paper completion: check each badge against the solution guide, then check the final code. No device is required.

The nest survey is restored. The team can draw the imaginary nesting ground. Thank your team for checking the evidence together. Confirmed final control code: 55856.

Duration and ages are estimates. Adjust pace and offer help for your group.

Dinosaur Nest Census

Player clue 1: Strip | Team 1

The survey desk received two conflicting nest strips, three observer records and an out-of-order checklist. Recover the data and read the census slots. Find five badge digits, then use the final sheet. Help each other and ask for hints.

Strip desk: Compare the two records at matching numbered positions. Count different pairs once each; ignore box outlines.

Compare matching numbered positions.

A

















1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

B

















1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Do not count title, labels, or boxes as differences.

Strip badge: _____

Dinosaur Nest Census

Player clue 2: Observer | Team 1

Observer desk: Each person has ONE different item. Use all four NOT rules.
Find Wes's item and copy its digit.

Map digit 8	Card digit 1	Pen digit 4
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People: Rin, Val, Wes

- Rin does NOT have Card.
- Val does NOT have Pen.
- Val does NOT have Map.
- Wes does NOT have Pen.

Find Wes's item. Each item is used once.

Observer badge: _____

Dinosaur Nest Census

Player clue 3: Survey | Team 1

Survey desk: Combine every BEFORE rule to order the four actions. Write positions on the whole-sheet cards. Read position 3.

Check nest [4]	File census [8]
Record marks [6]	Read chart [2]

- Read chart BEFORE Record marks
- Check nest BEFORE File census
- Record marks BEFORE File census
- Read chart BEFORE Check nest
- Check nest BEFORE Record marks

Read position 3 (positions start at 1).

Survey badge: _____

Dinosaur Nest Census

Player clue 4: Nest | Team 1

Nest desk: Find the exact word NEST, reading RIGHT only. Reject near matches and reversed words. Copy the digit immediately after it.

Find NEST; only read to the RIGHT.

N	E	S	X	8	A	B	C
T	S	E	N	2	A	B	C
N	E	S	T	5	D	E	F
C	A	M	P	9	S	U	N

Answer = digit in the next square after the word.

Nest badge: _____

Dinosaur Nest Census

Player clue 5: Point | Team 1

Point desk: Start at S. Follow EVERY arrow one square, including revisited cells. Record only the endpoint digit.

S: 5	7	9	1
8	0	2	4
1	3	5	7

right > down > right > up > left > down > right > down

One arrow = one square. S = start.

Point badge: _____

Dinosaur Nest Census

Player clue 6: Final | Team 1

Read your five badge digits in the printed order. Join them with no spaces, keeping zeroes.

Nest ?	Strip ?	Observer ?	Point ?	Survey ?
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Read left to right. Keep every digit, including zero.

Final badge: _____

Need help? Ask your host for one hint at a time.

Dinosaur Nest Census

Hint cards - level 1 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Strip

Compare position 1 with position 1, not with a nearby matching shape.

2. Observer

No item can belong to two people. Cross out each forbidden pairing.

3. Survey

The printed cards are deliberately out of order.

4. Nest

Start at N and check every letter.

5. Point

Move one square for each arrow. A revisit still counts as a move.

6. Final

Keep all five named badge results beside this sheet.

Dinosaur Nest Census

Hint cards - level 2 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Strip

Position 1 is one difference: hexagon in A, square in B. Mark it once.

2. Observer

Val cannot have two items, so Val must have Card.

3. Survey

Read chart must come first. Work out which action comes directly after it.

4. Nest

The exact word starts in row 3, column 1. Check its letters against the target.

5. Point

After the first 4 arrows, you are at row 1, column 3. Continue from there.

6. Final

Begin with Nest, then Strip.

Dinosaur Nest Census

Hint cards - level 3 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Strip

Compare the remaining numbered pairs one by one. Add one mark for each unequal pair, then count all your marks.

2. Observer

Cross Card off for the other two people. Apply the last NOT rule, then find Wes's item.

3. Survey

The first two actions are Read chart, then Check nest. Finish the chain and read position 3.

4. Nest

In that row, copy column 5, the cell immediately after the complete word.

5. Point

From that checkpoint follow left, down, right, down. Copy the last cell.

6. Final

Copy one digit per printed badge box from left to right. Do not sort by clue number; zero remains a digit.

Dinosaur Nest Census

Team 1 badge record (no cutting needed)

Write a digit beside each badge as you solve its clue.

Strip: _____

Observer: _____

Survey: _____

Nest: _____

Point: _____

Reader: reads the clue. Recorder: writes the digit. Path finder: traces routes. Swap roles every clue.

Dinosaur Nest Census

Team 1 paper unlock card

Our five badges are ready. We used the final sheet to find this code:

Host: compare this with your solution guide. When it matches, read the ending and celebrate.

No physical lock or prize is required. You may draw a celebration star on this card.

Dinosaur Nest Census

You're invited to a birthday mystery!

Join Birthday Explorer for Dinosaur Nest Census.

Restore the nest survey reading order.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Bring your curiosity. Paper and pencils are provided. Work together, share ideas and solve six clues.

Designed for ages 8-10. Estimated 30-45 minutes.

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Dinosaur Nest Census

Birthday Mystery Explorer

Presented to Birthday Explorer

Team member: _____

For completing Dinosaur Nest Census with curiosity,
teamwork and kindness.

The nest survey is restored. The team can draw the imaginary
nesting ground. Thank your team for checking the evidence together.
Confirmed final control code: 55856.

Date: _____

Host signature: _____

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