Foamy Nests

Purpose
To simulate the formation of an African tree frog’s nest.

Materials
• 1 raw egg
• Quart (liter) bowl
• Wire whisk
• Wooden spoon
• Helper

CAUTION: Always wash your hands after touching an uncooked egg.
It may contain harmful bacteria.

Procedure
Separate the egg white and place it in the bowl.
Beat the egg white into a thick white foam.
Fill the spoon with a large mound of the white foam.
Turn the spoon upside down.

Results
The white foam hangs down from the wooden spoon.

Why?
The hanging foam simulates the nest made by the African tree frog. The female frog prepares her nest by squirting out a slimy liquid. She whips the liquid into a foam with her back legs in much the same way as you whipped the liquid from the egg. The foamy nest is attached to a tree branch above water and eggs are laid into the foam. The squirming tadpoles that develop from the eggs break through the foam and fall into the water below.