



# Make a Snowy Plover Chick!



Western Snowy Plover chicks are colored speckled tan, black, and white to blend in with their sandy beach environment to hide from predators, like ravens and foxes. They will often freeze and crouch in small depressions to become even harder to see.

Chicks are also able to run within just a few hours after hatch! This allows them to begin eating and learning how to survive from dad!

## SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Cardboard
- Cotton Balls
- Black Glass Beads, (Alternative: Whole Black Peppercorns)
- Black Sunflower Seeds
- Wood Toothpicks
- Black, Brown, Tan, and Gray Markers
- Quick Dry Tacky Glue

## OPTIONAL PREP:

- Precut cardboard into 3" X 3" squares. Write *Snowy Plover Chick*, draw a pair of bird feet near center of stand
- Paint toothpicks black with spray paint or black markers
- Glue two cotton balls together and allow to dry

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Glue 2 cotton balls together and set aside to start drying. *Optional: roll one of the cotton balls to make it smaller, forming a smaller head, before glueing*
- Draw a pair of bird feet near center of stand and write "Snowy Plover Chick"
- Using toothpicks, poke holes at the center of the drawn feet. secure the toothpicks with a dab of glue
- Using colored markers, begin designing the chicks speckled pattern. *Think about how the chick will need to blend into a sandy beach environment!*
- Add a some glue to the large end of a sunflower seed and place it on the head of the plover chick. The direction of the sunflower seed will indicate where the chick is looking
- Add a drop of glue to the cotton ball on either side of the sunflower seed, then place a glass bead for the eyes
- Add glue to the top of each toothpick and place the cotton ball body on top, push down and pinch slightly so the glue is covered by the cotton ball
- Let stand for a minimum of 15 minutes to dry
- Enjoy your Snowy Plover Chick!