



CALIFORNIA
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SCIENCES



Mother *Maiasaura*

What can we learn about *Maiasaura* from the fossils we find?

Scientists have found many *Maiasaura* nests close together, which is a clue that *Maiasaur*s nested in large groups. Their nests were about seven feet across—that’s bigger than a king-sized bed! To make their nests, *Maiasaura* made a hollow in the ground by scooping out soil, then added plants to make a soft lining. Mothers laid up to twenty five eggs in the nest in a spiral pattern. The eggs were oval-shaped and about as big as a grapefruit. *Maiasaura* mothers did not sit on their eggs, but instead covered them with a thick pile of plants, which decayed and kept the eggs cozy and warm until they hatched.

As you color your *Maiasaura* family, think about these questions:

1. What color or colors do you think this dinosaur would be?
2. Do any of the plants in the picture look like plants you have seen before?
3. Where do you think *Maiasaura* groups would choose to build their nests?