

```html

# Lesson Plan: The Bowerbird's Blue Treasure

---

## Materials Needed:

- A shoebox lid or sturdy piece of cardboard for the base (approx. 30x30 cm)
  - Natural materials gathered from outside: twigs of various sizes, grasses, leaves, pebbles, moss, flower petals
  - A small collection of "treasures" of a single color (e.g., blue bottle caps, blue beads, blue fabric scraps, blue buttons, blue Lego pieces)
  - Child-safe craft glue or a low-temperature hot glue gun (with supervision)
  - A tablet or book with access to images and a short video of a Satin Bowerbird building its bower and collecting treasures
  - H's Main Lesson Book or a blank piece of paper and coloured pencils/crayons
- 

## Lesson Details

**Subject:** Zoology / Art (Integrated Lesson)

**Age Group:** 10 years old (Steiner Class 4/5)

**Framework Focus:** Australian Steiner Framework - Zoology (The relationship between the human and animal worlds), observation of nature, artistic expression.

**Time Allotment:** 90 minutes

---

## 1. Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, H will be able to:

- Describe the unique creative behavior of the male Satin Bowerbird.
  - Design and construct a three-dimensional model of a bower, applying principles of structure and aesthetics.
  - Explain how an animal's behaviour (like art/architecture) can be a form of communication and essential for its survival (attracting a mate).
  - Connect the bowerbird's instinctual creativity with their own artistic impulses.
- 

## 2. Rhythm of the Morning (Opening & Engagement - 20 minutes)

### Part A: The Wonder of the Story (10 mins)

Begin by settling into your learning space. Light a candle if that is part of your homeschool rhythm. Start with a story to spark curiosity. You can tell this in your own words:

*"Deep in the Australian bush, where the gum leaves whisper secrets to the wind, lives a most peculiar artist. He doesn't have hands to paint, nor a voice to sing a song for the*

---

*world. His name is the Satin Bowerbird, and his art is his home. But it's not a home for sleeping in; it's a gallery, a beautiful stage built to impress one special visitor. Every morning, he searches not for worms, but for treasures. He looks for the perfect blue feather from a Rosella, a lost blue bottle top from a camper, or a fallen blue flower from the Flax-lily. He is on a quest for the colour of the sky and the deep sea. With these treasures, he will create a masterpiece. Why do you think he works so hard to build something so beautiful?"*

Allow H to wonder and offer ideas. Guide the conversation towards the idea of attracting a mate.

### **Part B: The Naturalist's Observation (10 mins)**

Now, let's become scientists and artists. Say, *"Let's see this amazing artist at work."*

Watch a short (2-3 minute), high-quality video of a Satin Bowerbird building its bower and arranging its blue objects. As you watch, ask guiding questions:

- *"Look at how carefully he places that twig. What kind of shape is he making?"* (An arch or a tunnel)
- *"What do you notice about all his treasures?"* (They are all blue!)
- *"Why do you think he chose only blue?"* (Discuss how it shows dedication and skill to find so many items of one color.)

Look at a few still images online, noticing the different types of objects the birds use.

## **3. The Heart of the Lesson (Main Activity - 45 minutes)**

### **Become the Bowerbird Architect!**

Now it's H's turn to be the artist and architect. Explain the project:

*"You are now a Bowerbird! Your task is to build a beautiful bower on your piece of land (the cardboard base) that will impress everyone who sees it. You must build a strong structure and then decorate it with your collection of treasures."*

1. **Step 1: Build the Structure (25 mins):** Using the collected twigs and grasses, H will construct the two parallel walls of the bower. This is a wonderful engineering challenge. Encourage problem-solving:
  - How can you make the twigs stand up? (Pushing them into the cardboard slightly, using a base of glue, leaning them against each other).
  - How can you make the walls strong? (Weaving grasses in between the twigs).
  - This is a hands-on, "will-strengthening" activity. Let H experiment and even fail a little before finding a solution. The process is more important than a perfect result.
2. **Step 2: Curate the Gallery (20 mins):** Once the structure is stable, it's time to decorate. H will arrange their collection of blue "treasures" at the entrance of the bower.
  - Ask, *"How can you arrange your treasures to look the most beautiful? Will you group them? Make a pattern? Create a pathway?"*
  - Encourage thoughtful placement, just like the bird. They can also use natural items like pebbles, moss, and flower petals to enhance their display.

**Note for Co-Op Setting:** If other children are present, they can each build their own bower. Afterwards, they can do a "gallery walk" to admire each other's creations, leaving a small pebble or leaf as a sign of appreciation at the bowers they particularly like.

## 4. Reflection and Closing (Cool-down - 25 minutes)

### Part A: Sharing the Creation (10 mins)

Give H the floor to present their bower. Ask them to be the Bowerbird and explain their artistic choices:

- "Tell me about your bower. What is your favourite treasure?"
- "What was the most challenging part of building your structure?"
- "If a female bowerbird came to visit, what do you think she would like most about your bower?"

This verbal processing helps solidify the learning and builds confidence.

### Part B: Main Lesson Book Entry (15 mins)

Transition to a quiet, reflective activity. In their Main Lesson Book, H will document their learning.

1. **Title:** The Bowerbird, Nature's Artist
2. **Drawing:** H should draw their bower, or a bowerbird they saw in the video, paying close attention to the form and colours.
3. **Writing:** H will write a few sentences summarizing what they learned. A prompt could be: "*The male Satin Bowerbird is a clever architect because... He is also an amazing artist because... He does all of this to...*"

This brings the active, hands-on "out-breathing" part of the lesson to a calm, focused "in-breathing" conclusion, which is a core tenet of Steiner education.

## 5. Differentiation and Extension

- **For Extra Support:** Pre-make small holes in the cardboard base where H can insert the main twigs for the bower structure to provide more stability. Focus more on the decorating aspect than the engineering.
- **For a Greater Challenge (Extension):**
  - **Research:** Have H research a different species of bowerbird (like the Vogelkop bowerbird) and write a paragraph comparing its building style to the Satin Bowerbird.
  - **Creative Writing:** Ask H to write a short story from the perspective of the bowerbird on a quest for the perfect blue treasure.

...