

# SCIENCE

## FROM HOME



## Bowerbird Building

Birds don't just dress to impress, they also build to show off! Create an artistic design based on the beautiful constructions of the bowerbird. Learn how birds use color, shape, and creative collections to attract a mate.

### Materials

- Shallow box or large piece of paper for your work surface
- Twigs or straw for your bower structure
- Clay to support the bower structure
- Bower decorations
  - Pieces of colorful plastic (check your recycle bin!)
  - Beads
  - Ribbon
  - Stones
  - Shells
  - Colorful leaves
  - Artificial flower petals
  - Anything you like!

### Instructions

- Check out this video from the BBC on one species of bowerbird, "Life-The Vogelkop Bowerbird", <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1zmfTr2d4c>
- Begin arranging twigs and straw into the shape of a bower. Use clay to fix the twigs or straw into place.
  - Do you think that this is a sturdy shape? Why or why not?
  - How is this structure different from a nest?
- Begin arranging objects in or around the bower. Be creative and design it the way you like it!
  - In what ways can you arrange these objects? By color? By size? By type? By texture?
  - Why might bowerbirds place lighter color stones or shells around their bowers?  
*Most bowerbirds arrange items by color and size. Brightly-colored objects are placed on top of the white or grey shells and stones, and smaller objects are placed closer to the avenue of the bower while larger objects are placed further away.*

