

# Bird of the Year 2024

## Bateleur

### Lesson 8

<b>TOPIC:</b> Cultural value	
<b>GRADE:</b> 4-6	
<b>CRITICAL &amp; DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOMES:</b> Cultural values	
<b>LINKS WITH PREVIOUS LESSONS:</b> Conservation and Tourism Value	<b>LINKS WITH NEXT LESSONS:</b> Raising the Bateleur flag
<b>FORMS OF ASSESSMENT:</b> Retention of information	<b>RESOURCES:</b> Included worksheet/s
<b>LEARNING ACTIVITIES &amp; ASSESSMENT:</b>	
<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Through the ages, the Bateleur has played a role in various cultures across the globe. It has mainly stood as a symbol of spiritual transformation, representing strength and courage, along with being associated with the power of determination and energy to overcome obstacles the bird itself may face. Ancient legends refer to the Bateleur as having the ability to carry miracles across time and space, through those who believed in them.</p> <p>In the Native American culture, the Bateleur represents truth, bravery, power, and determination. In more modern-day times, this bird remains a figure in traditional culture which encourages individuals to become courageous leaders. In some Eastern cultures, the agility of the Bateleur is revered as it signifies being prepared for the changes that life throws at us and being able to respond quickly to situations and circumstances. It is seen as a source of inspiration whilst representing strength, wisdom, adaptability and free will.</p> <p>Traditionally across Africa, the Bateleur has been seen as a symbol of patience and strength because of its strong talons and ability to soar high in the sky. As the Bateleur faces great amounts of physical stress whilst hunting, many draw on this as to how they should face difficulties and persevere in their faith – no matter how hard the journey, a better end will surely come.</p> <p>The colours of the Bateleur have been known to signify the power of African ancestors who have journeyed to higher realms and now act as a bridge between the physical and spiritual world. These bold colours are thought to bring luck and fortune. Even today the feathers of the Bateleur are collected and used by traditional leaders across the continent. Encounters with the Bateleur are considered sacred events, which should be respected and cherished.</p> <p>The iconic stone carvings of the Zimbabwe Bird are an emblem for the country. Through the years, it has appeared on flags, coats of arms, banknotes, coins, and stamps. These soapstone carvings are believed to have stood on the walls of the ancient city of Great Zimbabwe, guarding the city, between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The city is believed to have been built by the ancestors of the Shona. Zimbabwe is derived from the Shona words dzimba dza mabwe and means the house of stone.</p>	

The shape of the carvings suggest that they represent the Bateleur. In the Shona culture the Bateleur or Chapungu is a good omen, a symbol of a protective spirit and messenger of the gods. In the late nineteenth century, eight carvings of the soapstone birds were excavated by treasure hunters. These were spread across the world, from Cape Town to Berlin, whilst the eighth always stayed in Zimbabwe. In May 2003, some of the fragments were returned to Zimbabwe. It is believed that until all the remaining fragments of the seven carvings are returned to Zimbabwe, the country will not experience peace and prosperity.

Activity:

### Bateleur Fortune teller

For younger grades, use the completed fortune teller found on the following page. Ensure there are sufficient copies for each learner.

1. Cut off the extra paper on the outer edge of the fortune teller.
2. Turn the paper over so that all the writing and pictures face away from you.
3. Fold all four corners toward the middle of the square – crease well.
4. Flip the paper over and again bring all four corners to the middle of the square – crease well.
5. Fold the square in half from the top down, unfold and fold from left to right – crease well.
6. Using your thumb and index finger, open the flap (with the animal pictures) like pitching a tent. Crease all the inner folds well and ensure your fortune teller can open and close freely.





Put the learners into pairs, each with their own fortune teller and a set of the infographics and fact sheets. One of the pair chooses one of the four animals depicted – each represents one of the food items of the Bateleur. The learners will need to spell out the name of the selected animal whilst opening and closing the fortune teller. Then a number is selected from those visible and counted out by opening and closing. This is repeated for a second selected number. On the third number selected, the fortune teller is opened, and the question is asked. Should an incorrect answer be given, the procedure is repeated. If a correct answer is given, the learner scores a point and the other half of the pair has a turn, repeating the above. To note, the prey depicted are catfish, shrew, locust, and pigeon.

For the older grades, use the blank fortune teller template. The learners need to draw their own prey items as well as create their own questions based on the learning that has taken place over the last eight lessons. Repeat the process of putting pairs together to play the Bateleur fortune teller.



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The Bateleur Fortune teller – junior grades

	<p>1</p> <p>Is the Bateleur polygamous or</p>	<p>2</p> <p>What is the average wingspan of a Bateleur?</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>What habitats is the Bateleur found in?</p>			<p>3</p> <p>What does Bateleur mean in French?</p>
<p>7</p> <p>How high up in a tree will the Bateleurs build their nest?</p>	<p>What does a dietary generalist mean?</p>	<p>What is the biggest cause of the decline in Bateleur numbers?</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Which is bigger – the male or female Bateleur?</p>
	<p>6</p>	<p>5</p>	



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The Bateleur Fortune Teller – senior grades

