

Essential information

Age range:

Key Stage 1 and 2

Group size:

Full class dependent on the leader. Either individually carried out or split into small groups

Time needed:

Depends on how this is carried out or supervised

Curriculum links:

Science Units 4B *Habitats*, 2B *Plants and Animals in the Local Environment* and 2C *Variation*.
Citizenship Units 01 *Taking part – developing skills of communication and participation*, 03 *Animals and us* and 06 *Developing our school grounds* Also can support literacy, key skills and thinking skills.

Setting:

Classroom

Contact us:

For enquiries regarding the activity sheets, please contact Emily Jones on: emily@ptes.org
020 7498 4533
www.ptes.org

For enquiries regarding stag beetle biology and ecology, please contact Deborah Harvey on: d.harvey@rhul.ac.uk

Design a stag beetle poster - leader's notes

Background to activity

This exercise will help children understand the threats affecting our largest terrestrial beetle in the UK and what they can do to help it. Background information will need to be given before the project is set.

Materials needed

- Paper, pens, tissue etc

Running the activity

Give the class a brief introduction to where stag beetles live and why they are facing problems due to the loss of their habitat, i.e. dead wood. Then have a question and answer session on how they think they could help stag beetles in the gardens and parks around their home or school. Ideas such as leaving dead wood around, creating log piles or burying buckets (see BB4B) are all correct. Finally ask them to design a poster to display to other gardeners and park managers how to look after stag beetles and their habitat.

Extension activities

- They could research another threatened species and design a poster for this too.
- They could get into groups and perform a talk on why stag beetles are under threat and how we can help them.
- Could the class carry out any of the suggested activities within the school grounds such as create a log pile and monitor it.