

Log pile- leader's notes

Essential information

Age range:

Key stage 1 and 2

Group size:

Whole class split into groups of 5 or 6

Time needed:

45 minutes

Curriculum links:

Science Units: 2B Plants and animals in the local environment; 4B Habitats; 5B Life cycles
Citizen Units: 03 Animals and us; 06 Developing our school grounds

Setting:

Outside

Contact us:

For enquiries regarding the activity sheets, please contact Emily Jones on:
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For enquiries regarding stag beetle biology and ecology, please contact Deborah Harvey on:
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Background to activity

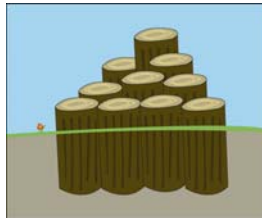
In this activity, the children will help install a log pile. This activity is especially good for encouraging children to think about the habitat of stag beetles.

Materials needed

- Rotting wood
- Spade

Running the activity

Choose logs that are approximately 20cm wide and 1m tall. Dig holes and bury them up to 50cm deep. Make a note of the type of wood used. Check for signs of use at six month intervals.



Extension activities

- Install a data logger and monitor temperature and humidity
- Try using different types and sizes of woods in different locations
- Install a bucket in the middle of the log pile so that it can be removed to check for beetles without damaging the wood
- Try to identify the fungus growing on the wood
- Take photos of log pile throughout the year to create a log pile diary