

### Essential information

**Age range:**

7-11 (children either side of this range may enjoy this activity dependant on ability)

**Group size:**

Split into groups of 4 or 5

**Time needed:**

Approximately 30 minutes collecting, 30 minutes sorting and building and 20 minutes observing and recording

**Curriculum links:**

Science Unit 5B Life cycles, Art Unit 3B Investigating pattern, 4A Viewpoints, 5A Objects and meaning and 6C Sense of place.

**Setting:**

Outside

**Contact us:**

For enquiries regarding the activity sheets , please contact Emily Jones on:  
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020 7498 4533  
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For enquiries regarding stag beetle biology and ecology, please contact Deborah Harvey on:  
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## Stag beetle sculptures using natural materials – leader's notes

### Background to activity

During this activity children will learn about anatomy of the stag beetle and have to create a 2D sculpture from natural materials only.

### Materials needed

- Bags/buckets to collect natural materials in
- You may wish to supplement materials if there are not many readily available to the class e.g. coloured leaves, seeds, unusual shaped logs, willow withies.
- Camera

### Running the activity

Start by familiarising the children with the different appearances of the stag beetle (see images in pack). Ask them to think about what types e.g. colour, texture, shape, of natural materials they might want to collect to create a 2D stag beetle sculpture. Divide the class into groups of 4 or 5 and head out to your school grounds or local woods with collecting bags. After collecting natural materials find a large open space where the children can sort their materials and begin creating their sculpture. Once complete have some 'gallery time' for the children to examine and comment on each others works of art.

### Extension activities

- Higher ability children could create a 3D model. Willow is especially good for this.
- Create each stage of the life cycle and join together correctly.
- Leave the sculpture to degrade and record it changes with a camera over the weeks.