

Bury a bucket for beetles- leader's notes

Background to activity

In this activity, the children will bury a bucket in order to encourage and monitor stag beetles. This activity is especially good for familiarising the children with habitats and the need to monitor endangered species.

Materials needed

- Bucket
- Drill bit of approx. 4cm diameter or a Stanley knife for making holes in the bucket
- Woodchip
- Soil
- Spade

Running the activity

Bore holes all over the bucket. Produce a woodchip and soil mix (approx. 3 parts woodchip to 1 part soil). Bury bucket so that the rim is level with the surface.

Dig up and check the contents after six months and then monitor at twelve month intervals. Please use our larval identification guide to help identify stag beetle larvae.



Extension activities

- Monitor bucket progress
- Install data logger and monitor temperature and humidity

Essential information

Age range: Key stage 1 and 2

Group size: Whole class

Time needed: 30 minutes

Curriculum links:

Science – KS1 and KS2: Working scientifically

Year 1: Animals, including humans

Year 2 – 6: Living things and their habitats

Setting: Outside