

The Beetle Olympics leader's notes

Background

During this activity, children will learn about stag beetles' ecology and behaviour and interpret into fun games.

Materials needed

- Variety of games equipment

Running the activity

In order for children to design their own stag beetle Olympics they must first understand the lifestyle and behaviour of the stag beetle from previous activities on the life cycle of stag beetles.

You can either ask the children to design their own stag themed races and games or assign each group a title and get them to choose their equipment and make up the rules. This could be a class, year or whole school event.

For younger groups or if time is short for planning the following can be used as activities –

- Sack race - children are larvae and they have to race in a sack style race.
- Run like a beetle race – three children line up behind each other and hold on to the person in front. This could be done as a straight race or having to run around obstacles.
- Lay your eggs - team running race to deposit as many eggs (small balls) as possible in an allotted time.
- A place to live – split the group into teams of 5. Two children are people and they have to create a stag beetle friendly area. This can be done as a tag team using bean bags to represent wood. The remaining three then make a beetle as above and then do a race to lay the eggs in the wood pile.

Extension activities

Each group could write a rules sheet with illustrations for their chosen game.

Learn about a variety of species to create more themed races for a larger Animal Olympics event.

Make insect themed refreshments for a healthy Olympics lunch.

Essential information

Age range: 5-11 (children either side of this range may enjoy this activity dependant on ability)

Group size: As many as staff and facilities will allow for

Time needed: No time limit

Curriculum links:

PE KS 1 & 2

Setting:

Outside or sports hall