

Stag beetle flying model leader's notes

Background

In this activity children will learn about anatomy of an adult stag beetle and have to build a model in groups from recycled materials. The models will then be put to the test in a flying competition.

Materials needed

A variety of clean rubbish
Scissors, glue and sticky tape
Tape measure/metre rules

Running the activity

Start by getting the children to learn the parts of an adult stag beetle body (see images in pack). Ask the children to think about and draw a plan of how they are going to build a model that will fly the furthest. Prior to the making activity ask the children to collect rubbish at home to bring in for their model. In small groups build the stag beetle, taking care with sharp materials, in an allotted time. Once finished move to an open area and lay out the measuring tape ready for the competition. Each group will have a practice run and recorded attempt. Children can record the results in a table. You may wish to have a prize for which groups beetle flies the furthest.

Extension activities

Higher ability children could write a summary of the planning stage as well as a labelled sketch. Repeat the competition so each group has multiple attempts and must work out a mean measurement.

Ask the children to think about other factors as well as materials that may affect the result and how they could overcome these.

Fully decorate and paint the models and display.

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 3 or 4

Time needed: Approximately 20 minutes planning, 30 minutes building and 30 minutes for flying and recording

Curriculum links:

Science KS1 and KS2: Working scientifically

Year 2: Animals including humans

Year 4 & 5: Living things and their habitats

Design and Technology KS1 and KS2: Design, Make

Setting: Classroom and outside space if possible