

Design a stag beetle poster - leader's notes

Background

This exercise will help children understand the threats affecting our largest terrestrial beetle in the UK and what they can do to help it. Background information will need to be given before the project is set.

Materials needed

- Paper, pens, tissue etc

Running the activity

Give the class an introduction to where stag beetles live and why they are facing problems due to the loss of their habitat (dead wood). Then have a question and answer session on how they think they could help stag beetles in gardens and parks around their home or school. Ideas such as leaving dead wood around, creating log piles or burying buckets are all correct. Finally, ask them to design a poster to display to gardeners and park managers how to look after stag beetles and their habitat.

Extension activities

- They could research another threatened species and design a poster for this too.
- They could get into groups and perform a talk on why stag beetles are under threat and how we can help them.
- Could the class carry out any of the suggested activities within the school grounds such as create a log pile and monitor it.

Essential information

Age range: Key Stage 1 and 2

Group size: Full class dependent on the leader. Either individually or split into small groups

Time needed: Depends on how this is carried out or supervised

Curriculum links: Science-

KS1 and KS2: Working scientifically

Year 2: Living things and their habitats

Animals, including humans

Year 4: Living things and their habitats

Year 5: Living things and their habitats

Can support **Literacy** skills, including Spoken Language and Writing

Setting: Classroom

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