



Stag beetle food chain - leader's notes

Background

In this activity children will learn about food chains that occur in the natural world. They will then be asked to produce a food chain that includes a stag beetle and a larva.

Materials needed

Printouts of exercise downloadable from the free resources section of the website.
Coat hanger and string

Running the workshop

Give each child a print out of the exercise and ask them to cut out the five pictures on the front page. Using a coat hanger and the string get the children to recreate the food chain hanging from the coat hanger – using the arrows as a guide to what eats what. They can write the name of each animal/ object on the back of the picture.

Extension activities

- Cut out the images on the second page to create food chains that include other species.
- To make the exercise more difficult, ask the children to think of other animals and plants that eat each other and get them to create their own food chain.
- Can they think of a food chain with at least five animals in them?
- Name the different groups within a food chain i.e. herbivore, omnivore, carnivore.

Essential information

Age range: Key Stage 1 and 2

Group size: full class dependent on the leader

Time needed: Approximately 20 minutes for producing food chain

Curriculum links

Science

KS1 and KS2: Working scientifically

Year 2: Living things and their habitats

Year 3: Animals, including humans

Year 4: Animals, including humans

Also can support literacy, key skills and thinking skills.