



Stag beetle life cycle leader's notes

Background

In this activity children will learn about the various life cycles that occur in the natural world. They will then be asked to produce a life cycle diagram of a stag beetle.

Materials needed

- Printouts of exercise downloadable from the free resources section of the website.
- Scissors and glue or coloured pencils

Running the activity

Give each child a blank diagram sheet and a sheet printed with images, arrows and labels. Ask them to cut out each image, label and arrow from the second sheet. Then ask the children to place the pictures in the correct circles on the diagram sheet, then connect the circles with the arrows in the correct order and finally label each life cycle stage. Once this has been checked they can glue the pictures etc in the correct places.

Extension activities

- Research how long each stage of the life cycle takes and write it on the diagram
- To make the exercise more difficult, ask the children to draw their own life cycle diagram
- How many other life cycle examples can they think of?
- Draw the life cycle of a frog
- Build a log pile in the school grounds and monitor it for invertebrate activity

Essential information

Age range: Key Stage 1 and 2

Group size: full class dependent on the leader

Time needed: Approximately 20 minutes for producing life cycle

Curriculum links: Science

KS1 and KS2: Working scientifically

Year 2: Animals, including humans

Year 4: Living things and their habitats

Year 5: Living things and their habitats

Year 6: Evolution and inheritance