

Stag beetle sculptures using natural materials – leader's notes

Background to activity

During this activity, children will learn about anatomy of the stag beetle and have to create a 2D sculpture from natural materials only.

Materials needed

- Bags/buckets to collect natural materials in
- You may wish to supplement materials if there are not many readily available to the class e.g. coloured leaves, seeds, unusual shaped logs, willow withies.
- Camera

Running the activity

Start by familiarising the children with the different appearances of the stag beetle (see images in pack). Ask them to think about what types e.g. colour, texture, shape, of natural materials they might want to collect to create a 2D stag beetle sculpture. Divide the class into groups of 4 or 5 and head out to your school grounds or local woods with collecting bags. After collecting natural materials find a large open space where the children can sort their materials and begin creating their sculpture. Once complete have some 'gallery time' for the children to examine and comment on each other's art.

Extension activities

- Higher ability children could create a 3D model. Willow is especially good for this.
- Create each stage of the life cycle and join together correctly.
- Leave the sculpture to degrade and record it changes with a camera over the weeks.

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 4 or 5

Time needed:

Approx. 30 minutes collecting, 30 minutes sorting and building, 20 minutes observing and recording

Curriculum links:

Science- Lower and Upper KS2: Working scientifically

Year 3: Animals, including humans

Year 5: Living things and their habitats

Art and design- various skills

Design and technology- KS2: Make

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