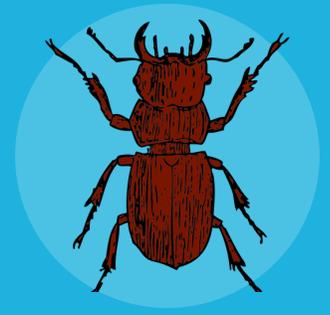


Habitat Scavenger Hunt



LESSON PLAN INFORMATION

Let's Learn About Bess Beetle Habitats by Exploring Under Logs and Searching for Critters!

Keywords: Habitat, Decomposer, Metamorphosis, Larvae

Remember to Safely Roll Logs with an Adult & Never Place Your Hands Where You Cannot See



Procedure

Let's get outside, hike on the trails & explore insect habitats along the way! Stop to check under decaying logs for bess beetles, or other cool critters you may encounter! Teach students how to safely check under logs. Compare different habitats that insects may live & discuss why bess beetles live in decaying wood in the forest!

Bess Beetle Habitat

- **What is a habitat?** A place where an animal makes it's home - provides food, water, shelter, & space.
- **What kind of habitat do bess beetles need?** Bess beetles live in dead, decaying wood. Decaying wood provides bess beetles food, shelter, and a place to raise their young!
- **Decomposer** - Bess beetles are important decomposers - by eating decaying wood they help break down organic matter and add nutrients back into the forest soil!
- **Metamorphosis** - Bess beetles go through a really cool life cycle process called metamorphosis! Have you heard of that before? It involves an egg, larvae, pupa, then adult. Butterflies and frogs also go through metamorphosis. Bess beetles make tunnels, or galleries, in the logs they live in. They lay their eggs in these tunnels. Then the eggs hatch into a grub, or the larvae stage. The larvae eats pre-chewed wood from it's parents. Then the larvae makes a pupa case out of frass (insect poop)! The pupa remains inside the case until it becomes an adult bess beetle!
- **Safety** - Roll logs towards yourself, so any animals underneath the log will move away from you. Always place your hands on visible areas of the log & place logs back in the same spot. Do not pick up any creature that may harm you, just observe from a safe distance.
- **Compare** - Investigate another habitat (creek, grasses, flowering plants) and compare with decaying log ecosystem. What are some other insect habitats? Can you find any living creatures? Why do you think this insect lives in this habitat?

Wrap Up Discussion

- What is a habitat?
- Can you describe a bess beetle habitat?
- What other type of animals live in or under decaying wood?
- What critter did you enjoy seeing today? What did you learn about it?
- What is your favorite insect? What kind of habitat do they live in?