

# Bess Beetle Investigation



## LESSON PLAN INFORMATION

Let's Discover the Physical Characteristics of Insects by Observing a Bess Beetle!

Keywords: Insect, Beetle, Exoskeleton, Head, Thorax, Abdomen, Antennae, Mandibles, Stridulation, Defense Mechanism

Remember to Handle the Bess Beetles with Care and Respect



## MATERIALS

- Bess Beetles
- Magnifying Glasses

## What Observations Can You Make?

- How many legs does the bess beetle have?
- Does it have antennae? Why do insects have antennae?
- Does it have a hard body? What does the body feel like?
- How many body segments does the bess beetle have?
- What do the mouthparts look like? What are they used for?
- Can you hear the bess beetle make any sounds?
- What else would you like to learn about the bess beetle?

## Conclusions

The bess beetle is an insect - insects have 6 legs. Bess beetles have two antennae on their head for feeling their surroundings. Beetles do not have a skeleton on the inside of their bodies like we do, but instead they have a hard, protective shell on the outside of their bodies - an exoskeleton! Insects have 3 body segments - head, thorax, and abdomen. Bess beetles have large mouthparts, mandibles, for chewing decaying wood. Bess beetles are very vocal and communicate with their family by rubbing body parts together - this squeaking sound is called stridulation. Bess beetles can talk, or stridulate, to warn other bess beetles of danger - this is called a defense mechanism!