



Beetles, Beetles, Beetles

Beetles belong to the largest animal group. Scientists think that there are 10 Quintillion (10,000,000,000,000,000,000) insects living throughout the world. Wow! That's a lot of zeros! **Beetles** are Insects. Because Insects have: 2 Antennae, 3 Body Parts, 6 legs and most adult insects have a set of wings.



LESSON

- Pinacate Beetles can be found at Wetlands Park and near your house. You probably call them stink bugs.
- When threatened, Stink bugs will stand on their heads with abdomens up in the air ready to spray a smelly chemical from its back legs.
- Stink bugs are an important part of the food chain. They are decomposers. They eat dead plants and animals. That's good for the soil.
- You can find them searching for food all year round.
- Beetles like to hide in small rodent burrows.
- What eats a stink bug? Mice
- Humans eat more beetles than any other insect. 300 species of beetles are known to be eaten. Yuk! Have you ever eaten a beetle?



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A great place at Wetlands Park to do today's activity: **Willow Grove**

The Willow Grove is a great place for this activity. Insects are small. Please be gentle while handling them and leave them alive after observing them.

Insect hunt

You will need:

- White plastic container or bucket
- Plastic cup
- Magnifying glass
- Pencil



ACTIVITY

Search for Insects in the leaves, dirt, and on the plants. collect them in the bucket or container. Observe them and put a hash mark on the chart.

Insect	Not Insect	Stink bug



Remember Insects have 6 legs, 3 body parts, 2 antennae, and a set of wings.

What do we call bug with 8 legs? _____



Takeaway... A question for today: How many beetles did you Find?

Question? [Click here to answer.](#)



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Just for Fun

Make a Beetle

Color all the white parts before cutting the pieces out and putting them together. Instructions are on the back. Beetles are very colorful , so use your imagination!

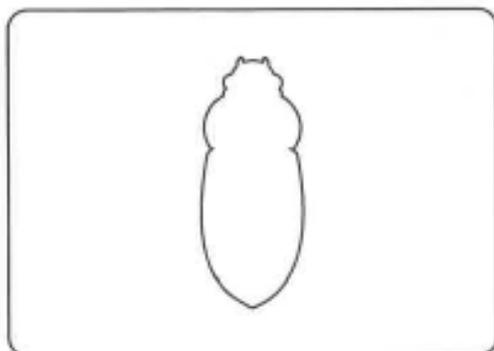


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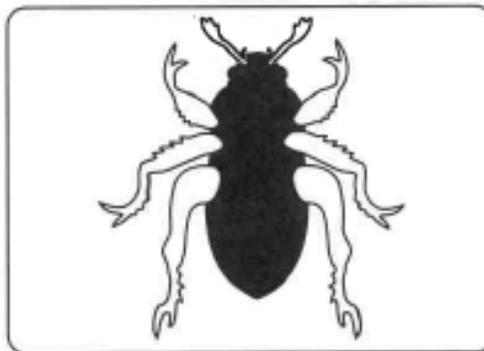


Make a Beetle Instructions:

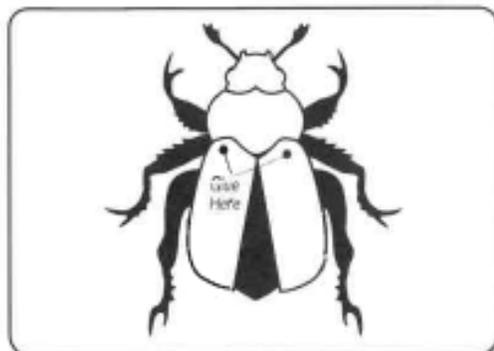
You will need: Crayons or colored pencils, scissors, and glue.



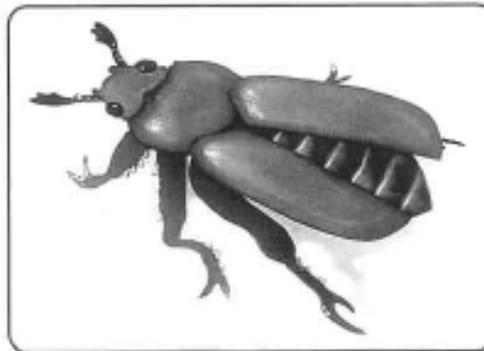
Step 1
Place body base on table with head facing up.



Step 2
Position legs and antennae. Glue antennae to head. Glue legs to body base.



Step 3
Glue head and thorax onto body. Angle carapace pieces so abdomen is in view. Glue only at top.



Step 4
When all parts are assembled, bend legs down at joints so beetle is freestanding.



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