

# The Beetle Book

## RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS



### THINK-TAC-TOE ACTIVITY OPTIONS

- ◆ Individual students can choose an activity to complete.
- ◆ Student pairs or cooperative groups can work together on a choice of their own.
- ◆ Educator can assign an activity for an individual, pairs, or groups.

<p><b>ANIMAL INSPIRATION</b></p> <p>The Volkswagen Beetle got its name from its round shape. Design your own car inspired by an animal or insect. Draw and label a picture of your car. What special features does it have to reflect the animal or insect? Write a paragraph to explain your design and your inspiration.</p> <p><i>Engineering, Writing, Art</i></p>	<p><b>DEAR DIARY, P.U.!</b></p> <p>Congratulations—you're a stink beetle! Write a diary entry about a day in your life as the stinkiest bug around. What do you do? Do you have any friends? Do people run when they see you coming? Are you lonely? Are the other beetles mean to you? Why don't you just take a bath already?!</p> <p><i>Writing, Science</i></p>	<p><b>THE WEEEVILS ARE COMING!</b></p> <p>Research the boll weevil. How did it affect Southern farmers? Why is it dangerous when plants or animals move or are brought to a new place? Find at least 3 other examples of <i>invasive</i> species. Where did they invade? What happened? Try <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/research/invasive-species">www.fs.fed.us/research/invasive-species</a>.</p> <p><i>Science, Social Studies, Technology</i></p>
<p><b>CHARTING IT OUT</b></p> <p>There are over 350,000 named species of beetles—more than any other plant or animal. Look up at least 5 other kinds of plants and animals. How many species are there? Make a graph showing your results. How many more species of beetles are there than other animals?</p> <p><i>Math, Science</i></p>	<p><b>SHARE THE LOVE</b></p> <p>Uh-oh! Some of the other beetles are upset that ladybugs and fireflies get all the love! Write a letter to the editor from one of the “creepy” beetles explaining why other beetles deserve love, too. Use facts from the book as support.</p> <p><i>Writing, Science</i></p>	<p><b>WHAT'S IN A NAME?</b></p> <p>Pick 3 beetles and write an <i>acrostic poem</i> for each one. Use the letters in each beetle's name to write a word or phrase that describes that beetle.</p> <p>Example: <b>B</b>ites people <b>U</b>gly (sometimes!) <b>G</b>ood for environment</p> <p><i>Writing, Art, Science</i></p>
<p><b>A DUNG DEAL</b></p> <p>Ancient Egyptians worshiped the dung (scarab) beetle; they thought it rolled the sun across the horizon each day. Why is the dung beetle so important to modern life? How does the dung beetle help fight global warming? Research to find out. Creatively, share your findings with the class.</p> <p><i>Writing, Science, Social Studies</i></p>	<p><b>BETTER LIVING THROUGH BEETLES</b></p> <p>Scientists have studied the bombardier beetle to make better valves. What else can we learn from beetles? Pick one beetle's <i>adaptation</i>. How could humans learn from or use this? Design a product using beetle technology. Make a brochure explaining your invention.</p> <p><i>Engineering, Science, Writing</i></p>	<p><b>HERCULEAN MATH</b></p> <p>Write at least 3 word problems using the following facts:</p> <p>The Hercules beetle can grow up to 7 inches long. Its horn can be 3 inches long. The Hercules beetle can move an object 850 times its own weight. Trade problems with a partner and solve!</p> <p><i>Math, Writing</i></p>