

The Beetle Book

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Nature, Insects

Book Brief: Become a *coleopterist* with this book all about beetles!

**Author and
Illustrator:**

Steve Jenkins



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build

background: There are over 350,000 kinds of beetles that we know about—can your child name a few? Several common bugs, like the ladybug and the firefly, are actually kinds of beetles!

As you read, compare the different kinds of beetles. What do they have in common? What special *adaptations* make them different?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Which beetle is the scariest?
- ◆ Which beetle has the nicest shell?
- ◆ Which beetle looks the most dangerous?
- ◆ Have you seen any of these beetles?

While reading, make comparisons: This book will work best if you explore a few pages at a time.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

BEETLEMANIA

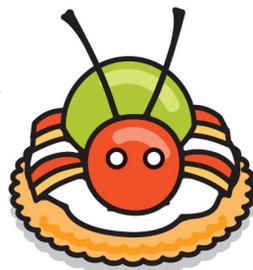
Materials: 3 large and 1 small paper plates, paint or markers, scissors, brads, pipe cleaners, glue

Decorate one large plate as the beetle's body. Cut two other large plates in half. Decorate two halves to look like wings and two halves to look like the shell of one of the beetles from the book. Using a brad, attach halves to the body to make a shell and wings that open and close. Cut the small plate in half and decorate it as the beetle's head; glue onto body. Glue on pipe cleaners for antennae.

BUG BITES

Ingredients: round crackers, fruits and vegetables (apples, grapes, olives, cherry tomatoes, etc.), cheese

For once, you can enjoy having a bug bite! Cut fruits, veggies,



and cheese into small pieces. Arrange the pieces on the cracker to make a beetle. Grape or cherry tomato halves make perfect shells; decorate with bits of cheese or other veggies.

MEET THE BEETLES

Using this book as a guide, go on a nature walk in your yard or in a nearby park. See how many different kinds of beetles you can find. Draw a picture of each beetle and record where you found it. Be sure not to bother the insects you find!



TECHNOLOGY LINK

Explore thousands of species of beetles online at www.bugguide.net/node/view/60. Then learn more about the all-important dung beetle at video.nationalgeographic.com/video/kids/animals-pets-kids/bugs-kids/beetle-dung-kids.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

The Animal Book (2013)

Just a Second (2011)

My First Day (2013)



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