

# The Beetle Book

## A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

**Themes:** Nature, Insects

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

**Author and Illustrator:**  
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## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading:** There are probably more than a million species of beetles on the planet. Let children learn more about these creepy crawlies by exploring this book on their own or in a small group.

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### BEETLEMANIA (AGES 5-12)

Materials: 3 large and 1 small paper plates (per child), 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.

### MEET THE BEETLES (AGES 5-12)

Materials: paper, markers or crayons

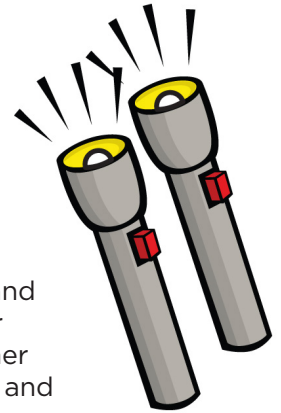
Thousands of new kinds of beetles are discovered every year. Design your own beetle! How does it sense the world around it? What does it eat? How does it communicate? What special *adaptations* does it have to help it survive? Draw a picture of your beetle and give it a creative name!



### LIGHT IT UP (AGES 6-12)

Materials: flashlights, Morse code chart ([www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse\\_code](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse_code))

Fireflies flash their lights to communicate with each other. Ships also communicate with each other by flashing lights using *Morse code*. Using the Morse code chart, write out a short message. (A dot means you flash the light quickly; a dash means you leave the light on longer.) Turn out the lights and flash your message at a partner with a flashlight. Did your partner understand you? Switch places and try again.



### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Explore thousands of species of beetles online at [www.bugguide.net/node/view/60](http://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](http://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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