

The Beetle Book

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Nature, Insects

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

Author and Illustrator: Steve Jenkins

Content

Connections:
Science, Social
Studies, Art



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

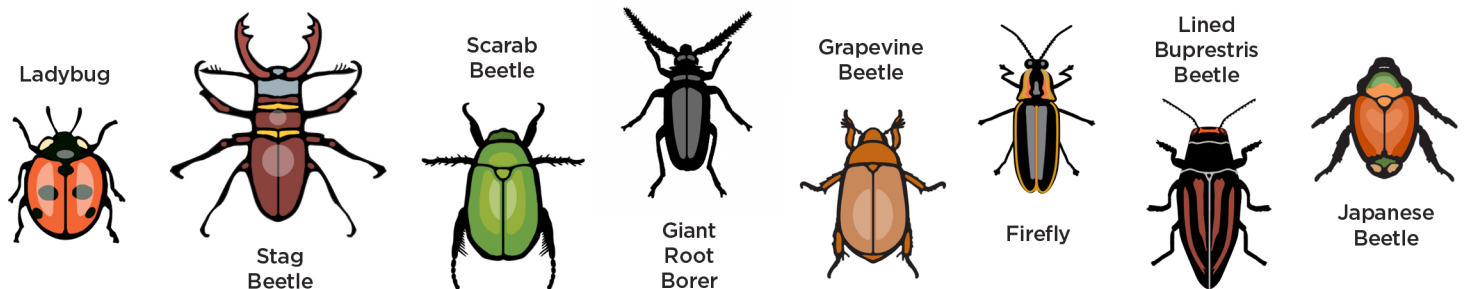
The Cover: Have students make predictions about the book based on the title and the cover illustration. What kind of creature is on the front cover? The back cover?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through the pictures. Do students think this is a fiction or a nonfiction text? Why? What do students notice about the diversity of the beetles pictured?

Prior Knowledge: Can students name different kinds of beetles? Some common bugs students might not think about are actually beetles, like ladybugs and fireflies. Tell students that beetles are about 230 million years old—roughly as old as dinosaurs—and that there are over 350,000 kinds of beetles that we know about. Beetles live almost everywhere on the planet, including in the desert. Brainstorm why beetles have been so successful at surviving.

Vocabulary: Will vary from page to page.

Purpose for Reading: This book will work best in a class library or at a work station. As students read, they should think about what *adaptations* have helped beetles thrive while other animals have died out.



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: After students have explored the book, revisit the discussion about why beetles have survived for so long. How have different kinds of beetles adapted to their environments?

Extending Our Thinking: What advantages might an insect like the beetle have over larger animals, like dinosaurs? Why might it be easier for beetles to survive an extinction event? Some scientists think that, in the distant future, humans will be gone and bugs will still be around. Do the students agree? Why or why not?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.

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