

Nick Baker's



● Explore the wonderful world of bugs with naturalist Nick Baker!

Designed for children by Nature Experts



BUG HUNTING

ACTIVITY GUIDE



● Hunt for bugs and see how many you can find in the undergrowth!

www.interplayuk.com



Beetles



Soldier Beetle

Found it!

Where do I look?

Beetles can be found in rotten wood piles and under leaf litter.

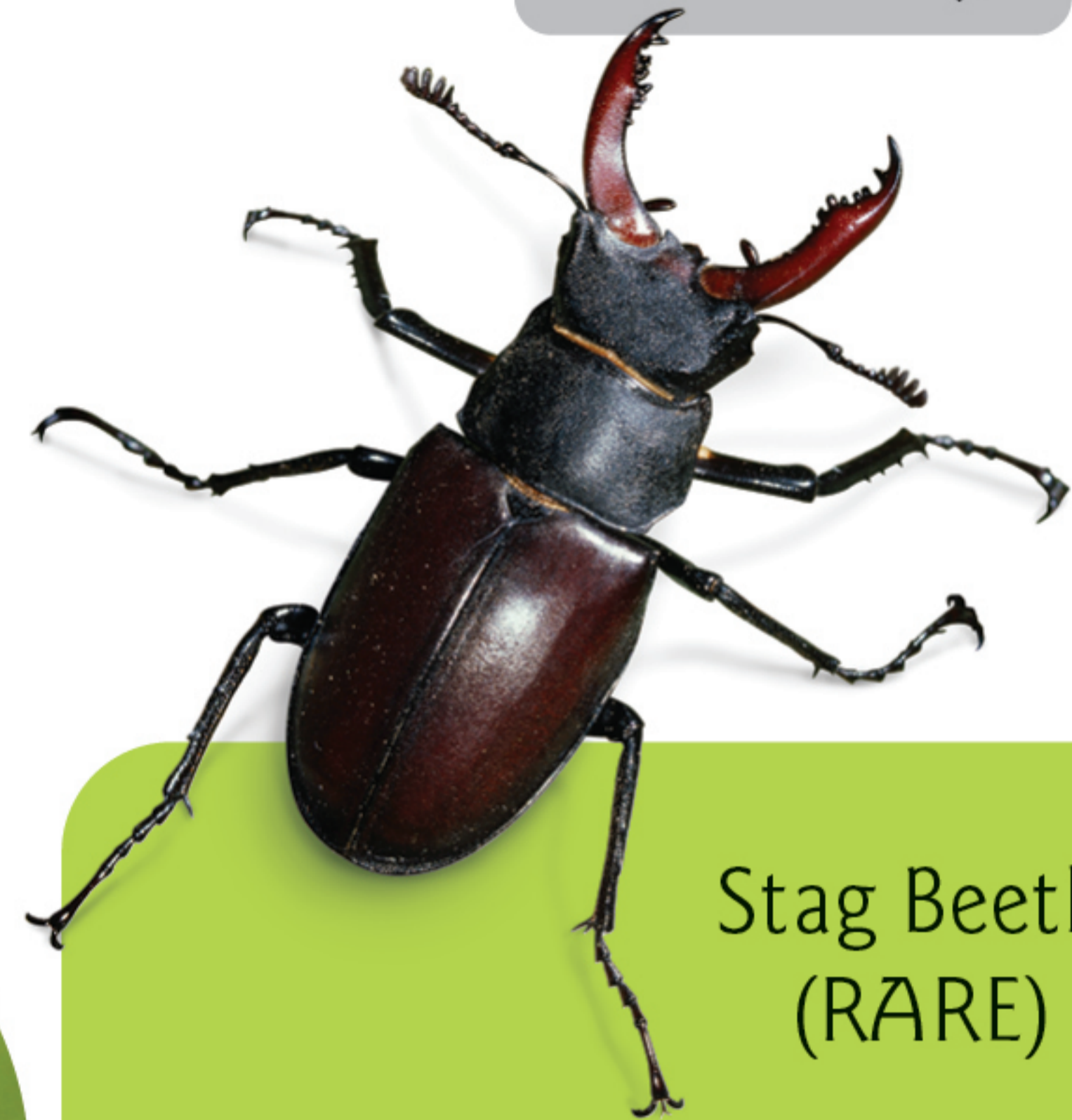
When are they active?

All year round mainly in the warmer months.

What do they eat?

Depends on the type of beetle; some are carnivores and eat other bugs, some are vegetarians and eat roots and rotten wood etc.

Found it!



Stag Beetle
(RARE)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Beetles are Britain's most common insect with over 3,700 different species (types).
- The Stag Beetle is Britain's largest insect.
- The world's largest beetles live in South America and can be over 17cm long!

Found it!



7-Spot
Ladybird

Found it!



2-Spot
Ladybird

Found it!

Ladybirds

Where do I look?

Look on nettles, thistles or any plant where aphids (greenfly/blackfly) congregate.

When are they active?

Commonly seen in summer months but can be found in winter sheltering in dry crevices.

What do they eat?

Aphids (commonly known as greenfly and blackfly).

DID YOU KNOW?

- The earwigs pincers can give a small nip but are generally harmless.
- The earwig gets its name because it was once believed that they crawled into people's ears at night when they slept.

This is not true!



Found it!

Earwig

Earwig



Where do I look?

In dark damp crevices, under bark, stones etc.

When are they active?

All year round, most active in summer months at night.

What do they eat?

Decaying vegetable matter and smaller bugs.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Ladybirds are a type of beetle.
- There are about 40 different species in the British Isles. The most common types found have either 2 spots or 7 spots.
- Ladybirds taste nasty, this protects them from being eaten by birds.
- Ladybirds are a gardener's friend because they eat bugs that damage plants.

NEXT
Ants &
Crickets



DID YOU KNOW?

- Ants live in colonies and are known as communal insects.
- The total weight of all the ants in the world adds up to more than all the humans in the world.
- Ants have the largest brains of all insects.

Ants



Black garden ant

Found it!



▶ Where do I look?

Under stones and slabs. Some species are found in woodland.

▶ When are they active?

Most of the year except when very cold.

▶ What do they eat?

This depends on the species; most ants eat small bugs, seeds and anything sweet. Some ants feed on a sugary substance given off by aphids.

Found it!



Crickets & Grasshoppers

▶ Where do I look?

Grasshoppers are found in grassland and meadows. Crickets prefer thicker vegetation such as shrubs and bushes.

▶ When are they active?

During the summer months.

▶ What do they eat?

Grasshoppers feed on grass, Crickets eat grass and are also carnivorous - they will eat smaller bugs.

Grasshopper



Cricket

Found it!



DID YOU KNOW?

- Grasshoppers can jump over 40 times their own body length. That's equivalent to a human jumping 80 metres.

- Grasshoppers and crickets 'chirp' by rubbing their back legs or wings together.

- To tell the difference between a grasshopper and a cricket, look at the antennae; a grasshopper has short antennae and a cricket has long antennae.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are about 18 species of Bumble Bee in the British Isles.

- Bumble Bees live in small colonies of about 150 members.

- A Bumble Bee does not die if it stings you, unlike a honey bee.

Bumble Bee



Buff-tailed bumble bee

Found it!



▶ Where do I look?

In gardens and fields collecting nectar and pollen from flowers.

▶ When are they active?

From early spring until autumn.

▶ What do they eat?

Nectar from flowers.

! WARNING

Bumble Bees can sting. Do not touch or try to collect.

▶ Where do I look?

Can be seen searching for food to feed the young in its colony. Look where sweet or sugary food is found.

▶ When are they active?

During the summer months, very active in late summer/early autumn.

▶ What do they eat?

Wasps are predators and eat smaller insects. They also like sweet food like fruit.

Wasps



Found it!



! WARNING

Wasps have a nasty sting. Do not touch or try to collect. Under no circumstances disturb a nest if you come across one.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Wasps are communal insects and their nests have been known to contain up to 10,000 members.

- Male wasps cannot sting. Virtually all the wasps you see are female.

NEXT
Butterflies
& Moths

Butterfly



Cabbage White Butterfly

Found it!

▶ Where do I look?

In gardens and fields collecting nectar and pollen from flowers.

▶ When are they active?

From early spring until autumn.

▶ What do they eat?

Nectar from flowers.

Peacock Butterfly

Found it!



Moth

Moths



Found it!

▶ Where do I look?

Anywhere outside late evening or at night in the summer. They are attracted to electric lights.

▶ When are they active?

Most active in the warmer months.

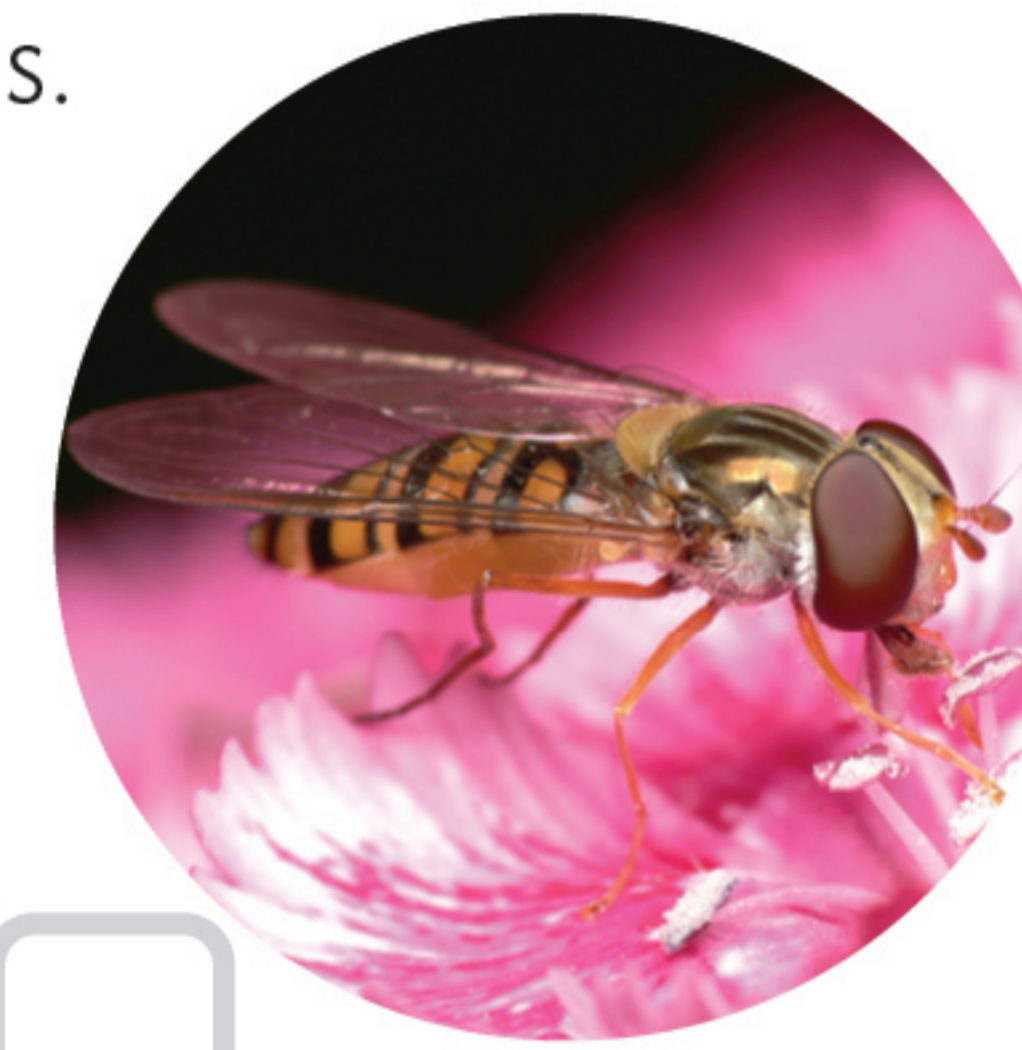
▶ What do they eat?

Nectar from flowers.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are about 2500 species of moth in Britain.
- Moths hold their wings flat across their back, Butterflies hold their wings straight up.
- Moths and butterflies cannot bite as they have no mouth-parts.

Hoverfly



Hoverfly

Found it!

▶ Where do I look?

Anywhere where there are flowers.

▶ When are they active?

All year but are dormant in colder months.

▶ What do they eat?

Adults eat pollen and nectar from flowers, larvae eat aphids.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hoverflies are a gardener's friend; their young eat insects that damage plants.
- They look like wasps to protect them from predators but they can not sting

Crane-fly



Crane-fly

Found it!

▶ Where do I look?

Grassy areas, gardens, parks and fields.

▶ When are they active?

June to October.

▶ What do they eat?

Larvae eat roots and rotting plant material, Adult crane-fly do not eat.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Crane-fly are also known as 'Daddy Long Legs'.
- Adults only live for 2 weeks.
- The young are called 'leatherjackets' and live underground.

NEXT
Centipedes
& Millipedes ▶

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 55 native species of Butterfly in the British Isles.
- It is said that for every butterfly you see today you would have seen 100,000 a century ago.
- Butterflies fly in daytime, moths mainly at night

- Centipedes do not have 100 legs as their name suggests. Depending on the species they generally have between 30 and 70 legs.

- They are very fast runners.
- They have sharp poisonous fangs. Watch out! Large centipedes can give you a painful bite. Use the tweezers if you are going to pick these beasties up.

Centipede



Centipede

Found it!

Millipede

Where do I look?

Under stones, logs and flower pots and other damp shady places.

When are they active?

Throughout the year.

What do they eat?

Unlike centipedes, millipedes are vegetarian and eat dead plants, rooting wood etc.



Millipede

Found it!

Where do I look?

Under stones, logs and flower pots and other damp shady places.

When are they active?

All year although they are easier to find in the summer months.

What do they eat?

Centipedes are fierce predators and feed on bugs like slugs and woodlice.



- Millipedes have up to 750 legs depending on the species.

- They are harmless and cannot bite.

- They are much slower moving than centipedes.

- They are protected from predators because they give off a nasty tasting chemical.

Spiders



Found it!



House spider

Where do I look?

Spiders are seen in almost every type of habitat.

When are they active?

They can be active all year round.

What do they eat?

Insects and small bugs.



Garden spider

Found it!

- Fear of spiders is called arachnophobia and is one of the most common fears among humans.

- There is no British species of spider that can cause any harm to humans.

- Weight for weight spider's silk is twice as strong as steel.

- Spiders have 48 'knees' (each leg has 6 joints).

- In the wild it is estimated that there are 5 million spiders per hectare. That is 500 spiders per square metre!

NEXT
Slugs & Snails



DID YOU KNOW?

- There are about 20 species of slug in the British Isles and about 80 species of snail.
- Slugs and snails are very similar except snails have shells.
- Slugs and snails can eat about twice their body weight in a day.
- They can live up to 6 years.



Found it!



Slug

Slugs and Snails

Found it!



Snail



Where do I look?

In dark moist places under logs, stones and flower pots.



When are they active?

All year except when freezing.



What do they eat?

They feed on leaves and young plants and are seen as a pest by gardeners.

Worms

Found it!



Where do I look?

In soil, under the ground and in compost heaps.



When are they active?

All year round.



What do they eat?

Decaying plants found in soil.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Worms are extremely important for the world's ecosystem - their constant burrowing allows air and water to penetrate the soil. They break down decaying vegetation providing an important source of food for plants. Worms are also a vital source of food for many creatures including moles, birds, hedgehogs and badgers.
- Under the ground it is estimated that there are approximately 750 worms per square metre!
- In Australia there is a giant species of worm that can grow to over 3 metres in length!



Woodlice

Found it!



Where do I look?

In dark damp places, in rotting wood under stones etc.



When are they active?

All year round.



What do they eat?

Decaying plant matter.



Woodlouse

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 46 species found in the British Isles.
- Sea creatures like crabs and lobsters are distant relatives of woodlice.

NEXT
Further
Reading



More Information

BUG HUNTING ACTIVITY GUIDE



GOOD READING

The Readers Digest Field Guide to The Butterflies and Moths and Other Insects of Britain

(Readers Digest)

Comprehensive, easy to read book with beautiful illustrations... highly recommended.

Nick Baker's Bug Book by Nick Baker (Collins)

An excellent book crammed full with fascinating bug facts and activities... highly recommended for naturalists of all ages.

Collins Complete British Insects

by Michael Chinery (Collins)

A comprehensive guide to British insects.

British Wildlife (Collins)

Easy-to-use photo-guide to discover the natural world.

Illustrated Keys

(Field Studies Council - www.field-studies-council.org)

These easy-to-use illustrated keys are fantastic and lightweight, contain lots of information. There is a huge range of subjects covered.

RECOMMENDED ORGANISATIONS

Bug Life - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust:

A trust committed to the conservation of all invertebrates. They have a really interesting and informative website and lots of conservation projects on the go. www.buglife.org.uk

The Amateur Entomologist's Society

A charity dedicated to all forms of insect life, its study and conservation. It has a club for younger members called The AES Bug Club that has a regular magazine and organises bug related events. www.exeter.ac.uk/bugclub

British Naturalists' Association

A national association which promotes the study of all branches of natural history. The Association organises study days, field weeks and weekends, lectures and exhibitions. Also has a kids club. www.bna-naturalists.org

The Wildlife Trust

There will be a regional group near you, organising lots of activities for all ages. The Wildlife Trust also produces regular magazines for both grown-ups and younger members, and they have a junior wing called Wildlife Watch. www.wildlifetrusts.org



DON'T FORGET!
Always return your finds to their natural habitat.

Enjoy your Bug Hunt!

