



Rhiân Williams

me little dung beetle

Heather Potter
& Mark Jackson

TEACHERS' NOTES

Blurb:

Beetles are clever, diligent
environmental engineers,
working away under
our very noses.

What's not to love about
beetles?

Specifications

Authors:	Rhiân Williams
Designer:	Heather Potter & Mark Jackson
ISBN:	9781742036656
Format:	250mm x 250mm
Extent:	32pp
Binding:	Hardback
RRP:	\$24.99
Reading Level:	Ages 7-12
Interest Level:	5-12
Age:	Foundation-Year 6
Category:	Picture Book

Australian Curriculum Outcomes
Foundation to Year 6

Curriculum Links

- LIFE SCIENCE
- BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE
 - ENGLISH
 - SCIENCE
- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Study Notes

- Life science • biological science • environmental science
- conservation • wildlife conservation • environment
- biology • habitat • citizen science • worms
- impact of humans on wildlife • human responsibility
- adaptations • survival • wildlife • humanities and social sciences • geography

Synopsis

Australian Curriculum Outcomes Foundation-Year 6

Australia is rich with fascinating beetles that all have a job to do. Using counting as a way of looking closely and identifying the roles that each type of beetle plays in the environment.

Foundation

AC9SFU0
AC9MFN02
ACSSU002
ACSSU005
ACSHE013

Year 4

AC9S4U01
AC9S4U04
AC9S4H02
AC9S4I03
AC9S4I06

Year 1

AC9S1U01
AC9S1H01
AC9S1I01
AC9S1I02
AC9S1I06
ACSSU017

Year 5

AC9S5U01
AC9S5I01
AC9S5I04
ACSSU043

Year 2

AC9S2U02
AC9S2H01
AC9S2I04
AC9S2I06

Year 6

AC9S6U01
AC9S6U04
AC9S6H01
AC9S6I06

Year 3

AC9S3U01
AC9S3U02
AC9S3U03
AC9S3H01
AC9S3H02
AC9S3I01
AC9S3I04

About the Author



Rhiân Williams

Rhiân Williams lives in country New South Wales. Her book *Emergency! Emergency! Vehicles to the Rescue* was a 2023 CBCA Notable Book.

Writing style



On Little Dung Beetle uses clear, rhyming writing style to pique the interest of young students.

About the Illustrators



Heather Potter and Mark Jackson

Heather Potter and Mark Jackson are illustrators and frequent collaborators whose works are the recipients of many awards, including CBCA Book of the Year Award, the Wilderness Society Environment Award for Children's Literature, the Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year Awards and Indie Book of the Year Awards.

Illustration Style



The illustrations in *One Little Dung Beetle* were painted with watercolour.

Before Reading

Beetle Word Cloud

As a class, brainstorm beetles. Use the words to create a Word Cloud.

Resource: <https://www.wordclouds.com/>

After reading *One Little Dung Beetle*, revisit the word cloud to see if the class would like to add words. Perhaps create a new word cloud with words and beetles from the book.

Examine the Cover

- What clues does it give about the genre?
- What might the book be about?

Discuss the clues about the book. Ask students to share their reasoning.

- Is this a picture book or a nonfiction book?
- What genre might it be?
- Where might students find this book in the library?

Help students identify the title of the book, author, illustrator and publisher.

- Discuss each person's role in creating a book.
- Which of these roles would students prefer if they were to help create a book?

Discuss the book's title: *One Little Dung Beetle*.

- What clues does it offer readers?
- What questions does the title prompt?
- What do you know about dung beetles?
- Why do you think this type of beetle is called a dung beetle?

The Blurb

Read the blurb: 'Beetles are clever, diligent environmental engineers, working away under our very noses. What's not to love about beetles?.'

- What clues does it provide about the book?
- Discuss with students what they already know about beetles.
- On a large sheet of paper create a table, with the headings: 'What we know about beetles' and 'What we want to know about beetles'.
- Revisit the poster after reading.
- Do students want to add anything to either column?
- Were all the questions answered?
- Allocate unanswered questions to pairs to research.
- Take some guesses about how a beetle may be an 'environmental engineer'.
- Revisit these guesses after reading the book to see whether anyone was right.
- Research Project: Can you find any other insects that are 'environmental engineers'?

After Reading

Turn and Talk

After reading *One Little Dung Beetle*, have students turn and talk to the person beside them to discuss what they found interesting about the book.

- Did they learn anything new about beetles?
- Which beetle was their favourite?
- Did they have a favourite illustration?
- What was the most interesting fact on the fact pages?

Categorising Activity

Draw the large outline of one of the beetles on the board or project an image taken from: <https://australian.museum/learn/species-identification/ask-an-expert/common-identifications-beetles/>

- Ask students to label various body parts (the legs, eyes, elytra).

Beetle Report

- Break the class into groups.
- Allocate each group one of the following beetle species featured in *One Little Dung Beetle*:

Iron Clad Beetle
Jewel Beetle
Leaf Beetle
Toe Winged Beetle
Whirlygig Beetle
Orchid Beetle
Tropical Log Beetle

- Have each group research their beetle and present a report. Groups could make a poster, 3D diorama or written report.

Reflective Exercises

- Which continents are beetles not found on?
- What is a Christmas beetles favourite food?
- What are the hard pair of forewings on a beetle called?
- What is metamorphosis?

Write your own beetle rhyme

- Students each pick one of the following beetles and write a rhyme about them.

Bombardier beetle
Ladybird
Whirlygig beetle
Flat bark beetle
Tortoise beetle
Leaf beetle
Tumbling flower beetle
Longhorn beetle

I want to be an entomologist when I grow up

Read the two endorsements on the back cover:

'You can count on falling in love with Aussie beetles after reading this gorgeous book.'

Bry the Fly Guy, Dr Bryan Lessard, *Eyes on Flies*

and

'A beautiful introduction for a budding entomologist to the amazing and diverse world of beetles!'

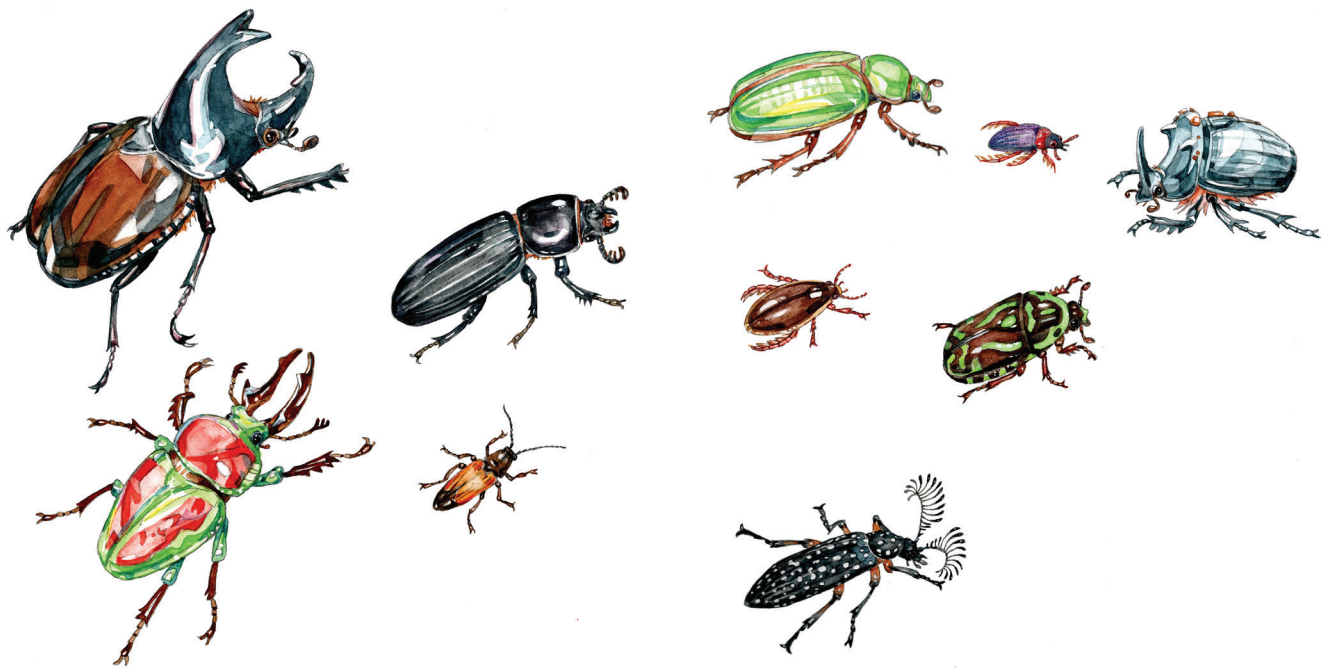
Simon Hinkley, Entomologist

- Ask students what they think an entomologist does.
- Watch the following video about entomology as a class:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxLHv9Pbwg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzmB2sljgcg>
- Ask students if any of them might want to be an entomologist.

Incursion: organise an entomologist to visit the class and speak about entomology.

Useful Resources

- <https://www.nma.gov.au/defining-moments/resources/dung-beetles-in-australia>
- <https://australian.museum/learn/species-identification/ask-an-expert/common-identifications-beetles/>
- <https://www.anbg.gov.au/gardens/visiting/exploring/fauna/insects/beetles-ANBG.html>
- <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/wildlife/2018/01/a-guide-to-australias-stag-beetles/>
- <https://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2003/12/04/2045274.htm>
- <https://brytheflyguy.com/about>
- <https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=what+is+an+entomologist&mid=B9CFFF-D8A7EAF15EBB00B9CFFFD8A7EAF15EBB00&FORM=VIRE>



Match the beetles with their names:

- Rhinoceros Beetle
- Christmas Beetle
- Rainbow Stag Beetle
- Fiddler Beetle
- Feather Horned Beetle
- Peg Beetle
- Click Beetle
- Diving Beetle
- Screech Beetle
- Dung Beetle