

Beetles

Rose Inserra



PM

Beetles

Level 22

Running Words 740 **Text Type** Information Report

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Science (Biological Sciences); Humanities (Geography)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the information report in their own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

- 1 Where in the world can beetles be found?
- 2 What are the three main body parts of a beetle?
- 3 How does a beetle use its antennae?

Inferential

- 4 Why do you think there aren't any beetles found in Antarctica?
- 5 Why would ladybirds lay as many as 40 eggs?
- 6 What is the purpose of a pupa?
- 7 Why do you think dung beetles lay their eggs inside dung balls?
- 8 How do you think fireflies got their name?

Applied Knowledge

- 9 How does animal waste help crops to grow?
- 10 What can people do to protect beetles in the environment?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 22	Information Report	<i>Butterflies and Moths</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Bees and Wasps</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Flies and Mosquitoes</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Bugs</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Grasshoppers and Crickets</i>

Beetles

Rose Inserra



Contents

What Are Beetles?	2
The Life Cycle of a Beetle	8
Different Kinds of Beetles	10
Beetles and the Environment	18
Glossary	23
Index	24

What Are Beetles?

Beetles are winged insects.

They are the largest group of animals in the world.

There are over 350 000 kinds of beetles.

Beetles can be different sizes.

Tiny beetles are smaller than a dot, and large beetles can be up to 17 centimetres long.

Beetles are found all over the world, except in Antarctica.

They live in many different places – in gardens, above and below the dirt, in rubbish, and even in buildings.



ladybird



darkling beetle



stag beetle



rhinoceros beetle

A beetle has three main body parts: the head, the thorax and the abdomen.

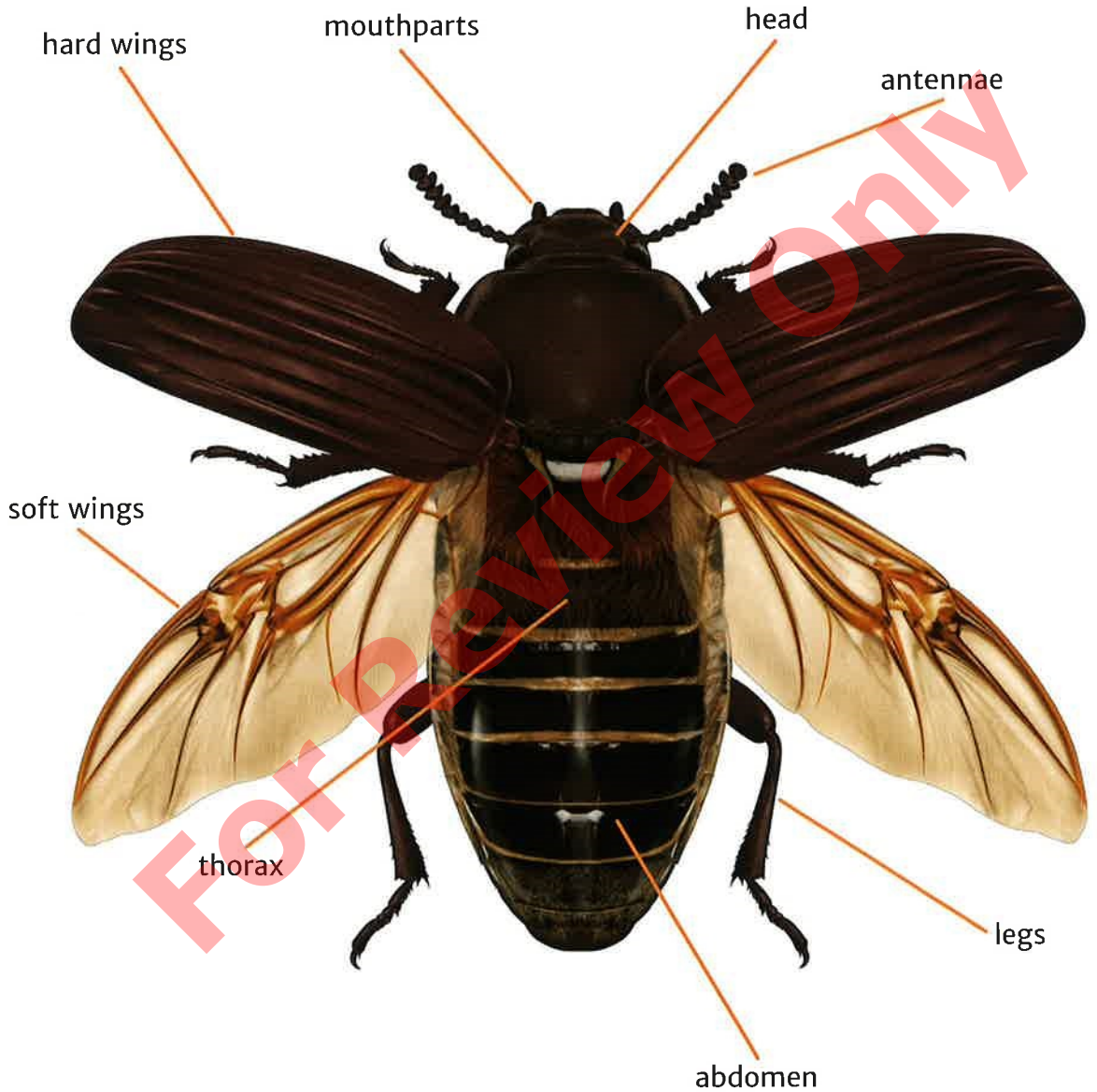
Most beetles can fly. They have four wings – two hard and two soft. The hard wings protect their bodies. The soft wings are for flying.

Some beetles have sharp mouthparts that move like teeth. They use their jaws to grasp, crush or cut food.

Beetles have **antennae** (say: *an-ten-ee*) at the top of their heads. They can smell and feel where they are with their antennae.

The first beetles lived hundreds of millions of years ago.

Parts of a Darkling Beetle



Some beetles need other insects and plants for food or shelter.

Ladybirds lay their eggs among another group of insects, called aphids (say: *ay-fids*).

When the ladybirds' eggs hatch, tiny grubs called larvae (say: *lar-vee*) come out and begin to feed on the aphids.



A ladybird larva eats the tiny green aphids on a plant.

The larvae of stag beetles live underground. They feed on leaf litter and rotting dead wood, like tree stumps and roots. They need to eat a lot of food to grow.



Darkling beetles are sometimes found under rocks and in leaf litter. Some dig into wood. Others make homes in ant nests. They eat rotting plants and dead animals. They also eat living plants, fruit and grains.

