

ANIMAL NEWS

STAG beetle season is here and experts need your help to monitor this rare and magnificent insect.

Stag beetles are the UK's largest beetle. They used to be common in the south of England, but are sadly now quite rare. For years they live underground as larvae (see below). But in May and June, the adult beetles emerge in order to find a mate.

The PTES (People's Trust for Endangered Species) is asking for our help to spot stag beetles. It wants to map where the beetles are found and track their numbers.

The best time to spot stag beetles is on a warm, summer's evening, when the insects like to fly around. They are easily recognised by their large 'antlers', which are only found on the males. And don't worry, the antlers are used to battle other males and impress the females – they don't bite!

If you are lucky enough to spot one, record your sighting at www.ptes.org/stagbeetles. The website also has lots of useful information on how you can help this iconic insect.

BEETLE WATCH



The curious life of a stag beetle:

- Stag beetles spend up to seven years underground as a larvae.
- They feed on rotting wood.
- Once fully grown, the larvae build a cocoon in the soil and change into beetles.
- In the summer, the adults dig their way out of the soil.
- They fly around to find a mate and lay eggs.
- The beetles only live for a few weeks. By the end of August, most of them will have died.



Stag beetle larvae



Male and female stag beetles

a.

b.

c.

d.

bullet points

sub-heading

headline / main title

caption

LO: organisation and layout

Listen to me reading the text again. Then, have a go at reading it by yourself.

In this lesson, we're learning about how newspaper articles and non-fiction texts are organised and laid out.

headline	The main heading or title in a newspaper or magazine. It is usually at the top and bigger than the other writing.
sub-heading	A heading or title given to smaller section of a piece of writing.
caption	A title or short explanation next to a photograph or drawing.
bullet point	A symbol used to show items in a list

Task 1

Match up the correct word to the letter. See page 1.

Task 2

Try to spot these features in books at home (non-fiction books rather than stories). Are there any other features which you see?

Task 3 (optional)

Design your own newspaper article for a subject of your choice. Decide on the headline, photos/drawings, captions, sub-headings. You could write the article as well but you don't have to.