

RAINBOW SCARAB BEETLE ART LESSON

Essential Question:

What does a Rainbow Scarab Beetle look like?

Lesson Objective:

To understand the general appearance of a beetle and to use creativity inspired by the Rainbow Scarab Beetle to create a unique beetle.

Beetle Art

You can do this project as a class or you can have a volunteer help small groups of students to create their beetles.

1. Give each student a pre-made kit containing a ball of air-dry clay, a toothpick, 8 or 9 inch long pieces of black pipe cleaners, and a plastic spoon.
2. Have the students pinch off $\frac{1}{4}$ of the clay (a good opportunity to insert some math). Next, demonstrate how to roll the large piece of clay into a ball and place it into the spoon. Flip the clay and spoon over and press gently into a beetle shape.
3. For simple beetles, tell the students to use their toothpicks to create the head and wings covers.
4. For kids that want a challenge, encourage them to form a pronotum over the beetle's thorax. They can even make a separate head.
5. Insert the pipe cleaners for legs (6) and the antennae (2).
6. If students want to make a male beetle, they can either form a horn using clay or they can use another pipe cleaner.
7. Encourage creativity! They don't need to look like a real Rainbow Scarabs.
8. The beetles will need to dry for at least 24 hours.
9. When the beetles are dry, decorate them with paint, glitter, pom-poms (with hot glue).



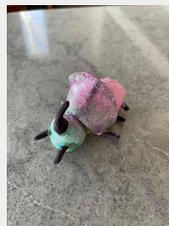
Lesson Discussion Questions:

- Why is the dung beetle's shell divided into two? (hidden wings underneath)
- How do dung beetles use their antennae? (to smell)
- How many legs does a dung beetle have? (6)

Materials:

- Plastic spoons (for each student)
- Air Dry Clay
- Tempera paint
- Glitter (optional)
- Black pipe cleaners
- Small yellow pom-poms (optional)

Examples:



Pro Tip: I used terracotta colored clay, which can look a bit like flesh. Teachers...you know how this could go wrong! I suggest using black or white.