

ACTIVITY 9	The bark beetle
The aim of the activity	Improve the knowledge of local forests and their fragility through the study of a parasite that has nowadays become a factor of great danger to the health of forests.
Places where the event can be held	Classroom, forest
Age group for the activity	8-11

BEYOND SCHOOL PROJECT

A. BEFORE OUT-OF-SCHOOL LEARNING ACTIVITY	
Educational tools	Slideshow
Method, technique and strategies	Storytelling, collective discussion
PRACTICE	Knowledge of the bark beetle
Introduction of the activity	What is bark beetle? The teacher asks the students if anyone has ever heard of it. It then shows some images, in which the areas with trees affected by the parasite are evident. What could have caused this disaster? We try to think of a possible guilty.
Development of the activity	The teacher reveals the mystery: the bark beetle! A very small insect that digs tunnels inside tree trunks. As a result of digging, the tree becomes diseased, and the bark beetle moves on to the next tree, thus infesting the forest. Some images of the insect and the excavated tunnels are shown.
Evaluation of the activity	Evaluation test on the knowledge acquired.

B. IN THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL LEARNING ENVIRONMENT	
Educational tools	Nothing
Method, technique and strategies	Excursion

PRACTICE	Excursion to a woodland area affected by the bark beetle to see its effects
Introduction of the activity	The teacher reviews what was learned during the previous lesson.
Development of the activity	The pupils explore the forest to see the effects of the bark beetle, with the help of an expert. They look at the leaves, try to peel off some bark to see the tunnels dug inside, try to understand why the bark beetle has established itself in a certain area and not in others.
Evaluation of the activity	Student behavior is evaluated

C. AFTER OUT OF SCHOOL LEARNING ACTIVITY

Educational tools	Plastic plate, sheets of paper, acrylic colours, cardboard, scissors, stationery material, prints with the parts of the bark beetle's body to cut out.
Method, technique and strategies	Practical activity
PRACTICE	Create bark beetle artifacts to hang in the classroom
Introduction of the activity	The teacher explains what will be done: a reproduction of the tunnels dug by the bark beetle and a reconstruction of the insect with paper, glue and colours. Distributes the materials to the students.
Development of the activity	<p>The students created the tunnels by cutting the plastic plate with a pencil, following the behavior of the bark beetle (a central tunnel with lateral branches). Then they cover the plate with acrylic color and place the sheet on top, so as to obtain a sort of cast of the galleries.</p> <p>Subsequently, with the prints previously prepared by the teacher, they create a large-scale reproduction of the bark beetle. We take advantage of this to learn more about insects in general: the name of the different parts of the body, the number of legs, the anatomy in general.</p>
Evaluation of the activity	The success of the activity is evaluated.



A reproduction of bark beetle's tunnel



Anatomy of the bark beetle



Reproduction of the bark beetle

