

Bugs at Work

Task Cards

Copy the pages and laminate them for durability, if you wish. Cut out the Task Cards. Place the Task Cards face up on the table. Students take turns selecting a card, reading it aloud, and answering it. Correct answers receive one point. The player with the most points wins. The Cards are self-checking.



When the dermestid beetle is hungry, it's **ravenous**. The word **ravenous** in this story means _____.



What do dermestid beetles like to munch on?



Fact or Opinion:
The dermestid beetle cleans a skeleton better than a museum worker.



The dermestid beetle will **gorge** on anything. The word **gorge** means _____.



What are the two parts of a skeleton that the dermestid beetle won't eat?



Why do the museum preparators place the skeleton in a stainless steel tub inside a humid closet?



The baby beetles are also known as _____.



The larvae are good at eating the meat that is not exposed because:



Fact or Opinion:
A beetle colony can take up to a week to eat an elk.

Fact

carpets,
fur coats,
and meat on bones

insatiable or
greedy

to keep spiders
away (They will
eat the beetles.)

bone and cartilage

devour or
gobble

Fact

they can slip inside
the bone structure
and in between teeth.

larvae

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What is the length of a full-sized dermestid beetle?



What is a beetle colony?



Fact or Opinion:
Stray beetles could easily destroy other museum exhibits.



What does the cartilage do?



What steps do preparators take after the beetles have eaten the flesh from a skeleton?



What might a stray beetle destroy?



True or False:
A dermestid beetle is welcome at a museum as long as it remains in a special closet.



Why do the preparators put mothballs in the skeleton?



It soaks away any greasy **residue** and kills the smell. The word **residue** means _____.

Fact

a group of beetles

nearly an inch long

mounted animals
and mounted birds

They seal the
skeleton with
mothballs and place the
skeleton in a solution
of water and ammonia to
soak away the
greasy residue
and kill the smell.

It connects
all the bones.

excess or
deposits

to kill any stray
beetles hiding inside
the bone structure

True