

What Do Darkling Beetles Like?



3 Part Science Lab



Using a live darkling beetle (adult stage), you will discover whether a beetle prefers a certain color, light or darkness, and wet or dry environments.

Name _____



What Color Does a Darkling Beetle Prefer?

Materials needed:

construction paper
(4 colors)
darkling beetle

Lay out four different colored squares of construction paper.

*Color in the colors you are using here.



Which color do you think a beetle will prefer?
Why?

Place the beetle in the center of the four colors of paper. What happens? Conduct at least 5 different trials and record your observations and results for each one.

Trial #1	Trial #2	Trial #3	Trial #4	Trial #5

Based on your observations, which color does a darkling beetle prefer?
Why do you think you got these results?

Why did you choose these four colors? Now that you have conducted the experiment, would you have chosen different colors? Why or why not?

What are some of the results of your classmates during this experiment?
Do they match your results? Why or why not?

Does a Beetle Prefer Light or Dark Areas?

Materials needed:

container
black paper
darkling beetle

Place a sheet of black paper over half of a plastic container.
Do you think a beetle will prefer light or dark areas? Why?

Place the beetle in the center of the container. What happens?

Conduct at least 5 different trials and record your observations and results for each one.

Trial #1	Trial #2	Trial #3	Trial #4	Trial #5

Based on your observations, does a darkling beetle prefer light or dark areas? Why do you think you got these results?

Now that you have conducted the experiment, are you surprised by these results? Why or why not?

What are some of the results of your classmates during this experiment? Do they match your results? Why or why not?

Does a Beetle Prefer Wet or Dry Areas?

Materials needed:

container
wet paper towel
dry paper towel
darkling beetle

Place a square of wet paper towel and a square of dry paper towel into a container. Do you think a beetle will prefer wet or dry areas? Why?

Place the beetle in the center of the container. What happens? Conduct at least 5 different trials and record your observations and results for each one.

Trial #1	Trial #2	Trial #3	Trial #4	Trial #5

Based on your observations, does a darkling beetle prefer wet or dry areas? Why do you think you got these results?

Now that you have conducted the experiment, are you surprised by these results? Why or why not?

What are some of the results of your classmates during this experiment? Do they match your results? Why or why not?