Mealworm & Darkling Beetle Scavenger Hunt Activity

Materials:
- Mealworms questions worksheet (pages 2-3)
- 16 mealworm fact cards (pages 4-8)
- Scissors and scotch tape

Preparation:
Print the insect fact cards and cut them apart.

Make copies of the mealworm questions worksheet (2-sided). Each student will need his or her own copy.

Hide all 16 mealworm fact cards around your classroom where students will be able to find them. You can put them on the back of your classroom door, on chairs, on the computer keyboard, on the sides of student desks, or wherever you like.

Activity:
Students receive copies of the question worksheet. They have to search the classroom to find the fact cards to answer the questions.

After they have completed the question sheet, you can go over the answers together with the class.

Management tips:
You may want to make this a silent activity so students don’t share answers with each other.

You can have the kids work by themselves or with partners.

Don’t be afraid to hide the facts in tough places. Kids think it’s more fun when they have to search around a little.

Examples of good hiding spots might include:
- sticking out of a book, like a bookmark
- the back of the classroom door
- laying flat on the bookshelf
- on the back of the teacher’s chair
- on the side of your computer monitor

Have a plan for students who finish early. You may want to have an assignment for them to complete when they’re done, or you may have them help other students find fact cards.

Super Teacher Worksheets - www.superteacherworksheets.com
Mealworm & Darkling Beetle Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card #1: Name the four stages of a darkling beetle's life.

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #2: How long is a darkling beetle's egg?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #3: How many eggs can a female darkling beetle lay at one time?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #4: What is molting?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #5: What do mealworms eat in the wild?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #6: Why do people buy mealworms at pet shops?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #7: How long does it take a mealworm egg to hatch?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #8: Why are mealworms considered pests in people’s homes?

__________________________________________________________________
Mealworm & Darkling Beetle Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card #9: Why shouldn't you eat the mealworms in your classroom?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #10: What will happen if you don't give your mealworms enough food?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #11: Do darkling beetles have wings?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #12: How long does a mealworm stay in the pupa stage?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #13: How many body segments does a mealworm have?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #14: Darkling beetles come in three colors. What are they?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #15: Mealworms can't see the shapes of things around them. What can they see?

__________________________________________________________________

Fact Card #16: How did darkling beetles get their name?

__________________________________________________________________
Mealworms are not really worms! A mealworm is really a darkling beetle in its larval stage.

There are four stages in a darkling beetle's life cycle:
1. egg
2. larva (mealworm)
3. pupa
4. adult

The egg of a mealworm or darkling beetle is very tiny - usually less than one millimeter long. It is difficult to see them without a microscope.

A female darkling beetle lays 270 to 500 eggs at a time.

When a mealworm grows, it sheds its outer skin. This is called molting.
Mealworm & Darkling Beetle Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card #5

In the wild, mealworms eat mostly dead grass and rotting leaves.

Fact Card #6

Many fishermen use mealworms at bait. Pet shops also sell them as food for lizards and birds.

Fact Card #7

A mealworm egg takes about 4 weeks to hatch.

Fact Card #8

Mealworms aren't pests to farmers because they don't usually harm live plants.

They can be pests in people's homes because they like to live in cereal and flour.
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Fact Card #9

Some humans eat mealworms as a special treat. They're very healthy and have lots of protein. People who eat mealworms put them in a large bowl and eat them with a spoon.

Don't eat the mealworms in your classroom, though. It is only safe to eat mealworms that have been cleaned properly.

Mealworm & Darkling Beetle Scavenger Hunt
Fact Card #10

Be sure your mealworms have enough food! If you don't, they may eat each other.

Mealworm & Darkling Beetle Scavenger Hunt
Fact Card #11

Darkling beetles do have wings, but they don't use them and cannot fly.

Mealworm & Darkling Beetle Scavenger Hunt
Fact Card #12

When a mealworm is in the pupa stage, it cannot walk or move around, but it can wiggle its legs.

During this stage, it sits completely still for a week or two as it develops into an adult beetle.
Mealworm & Darkling Beetle
Scavenger Hunt
Fact Card #13

All mealworms have 13 body segments.

Fact Card #14

Adult darkling beetles can be brown, black, or red.

Fact Card #15

Mealworms can see light and dark, but they cannot see things around them.

Fact Card #16

Darkling beetles got their name because they are only active at night.
Mealworm & Darkling Beetle Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card #1: Name the four stages of a darkling beetle's life.

*The four stages are egg, larva (mealworm), pupa, and adult (beetle).*

Fact Card #2: How long is a darkling beetle's egg?

*A darkling beetle's egg is 1 millimeter long.*

Fact Card #3: How many eggs can a female darkling beetle lay at one time?

*A female darkling beetle can lay 270 to 500 eggs.*

Fact Card #4: What is molting?

*Molting is when an animal (mealworm) sheds its skin (exoskeleton).*

Fact Card #5: What do mealworms eat in the wild?

*Wild mealworms eat dead grass and rotting leaves.*

Fact Card #6: Why do people buy mealworms at pet shops?

*People buy mealworms at pet stores to feed lizards and birds. (Also accept: Fishermen buy them to use as bait.)*

Fact Card #7: How long does it take a mealworm egg to hatch?

*A mealworm egg takes 4 weeks (1 month) to hatch.*

Fact Card #8: Why are mealworms considered pests in people's homes?

*They like to live in cereal and flour.*
Mealworm & Darkling Beetle Scavenger Hunt

**Fact Card #9:** Why shouldn't you eat the mealworms in your classroom?

Many people eat mealworms, but they're only safe if they're cleaned properly.

**Fact Card #10:** What will happen if you don't give your mealworms enough food?

They will eat each other.

**Fact Card #11:** Do darkling beetles have wings?

Yes they have wings, but they cannot fly.

**Fact Card #12:** How long does a mealworm stay in the pupa stage?

They stay in the pupa stage for a week or two.

**Fact Card #13:** How many body segments does a mealworm have?

They have thirteen body segments.

**Fact Card #14:** Darkling beetles come in three colors. What are they?

They can be brown, black, and red.

**Fact Card #15:** Mealworms can't see the shapes of things around them. What can they see?

They can see light and dark.

**Fact Card #16:** How did darkling beetles get their name?

Since they are only active at night, they were named darkling beetles.