

WHERE THE WILD
ONES LEARN

What Goes Bump in the Night Nature Study

SECONDARY

AGES AROUND 11-16

THROUGH THE WILD LENS™

Activity, light and evaluating evidence

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36-PAGE NATURE STUDY

Common glow-worm: adult female

Lampyris noctiluca

IDENTIFICATION AND SCOPE

The adult female is wingless and can look rather like a larva. She is a beetle. This photograph shows her body, not a demonstration of the brightness of her glow. Which life stage and sex does a claim describe? Some other insects called glow-worms elsewhere have different ways of living.

ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

The adult female produces a greenish light that signals to flying males. The larvae also glow faintly and feed on snails and slugs. The adult female’s light is not a lure for catching flying insects.

DEVELOP AN ENQUIRY

Choose a claim that could be investigated using a guide, published observations or supplied records. Specify what evidence would support it and what would remain uncertain. A reference image is not a local occurrence record.



Species reference photographs; not a local wildlife record.

Read more: Common glow-worm

Sampling: detection is not abundance

CHOOSE A DESIGN

Compare fixed observation windows, repeated passive cameras or an existing dataset. Identify the sampling unit, location selection and duration. A convenience sample beside one path may miss other habitat types.

KEEP NON-DETECTION HONEST

An absent record can mean no detection, no survey or an unusable recording. These must not be merged. Several clips from one movement may need an explicit rule for grouping events.

DEEPER ENQUIRY

How could increased survey effort appear to produce a biological change? Propose a comparison that addresses the problem. Use supplied data to retain the reasoning without requiring equipment, darkness or prolonged field visits.