Create Symmetrical Beetle Art

Look at examples of insects in art. Sharpen your symmetry skills by drawing the beetle’s missing side. Then use your imagination to create a swarm of symmetrical insects!

Insects have long been a fascinating subject for artists. Look closely at the examples below. What do you see? How are they similar or different?


*Worker* by Anvil Catlin-Williamson, 2015, ceramic, glaze, and wire. Image: anvilcatlin.com

*Branch of Genipapo with Long-Horned Beetle* by Maria Sibylla Merian, 1702, watercolor. Image: Royal Collection in London.
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Beetles are insects in the order Coleoptera. They come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. However, all beetles, share common traits, such as a hard wing casing that covers their more fragile soft wings, six legs, three body segments, and antennae.

Beetles have *bilateral symmetry*. This means their left side is a mirror image of their right side.

**Did You Know?** There are more than 400,000 known species of beetles!

**Materials Needed:** Beetle Symmetry coloring page (or draw your own), pencil, coloring supplies such as crayons, paint, or colored pencils.

**Instructions:**

**Step 1:** Complete the pictures of a beetle on the coloring page by drawing the missing side. Can you make it symmetrical?

**Step 2:** Add colors with crayons, colored pencils, or paint. Color both sides the same way. Be creative!

**Extension:** Create more beetles and other imaginative insects. Fill a page! Remember to include a head, a thorax, an abdomen, six legs, eyes, and antennae. Make wings or a hard shell. Remember to make your insects symmetrical!
This beetle was inspired by *Upis ceramboïdes*, commonly known as the darkling beetle.