**Learning Objective**

We are learning how to write sentences about dung beetles that contain effective expanded noun phrases.

**Challenge 1**

**Highlight the expanded noun phrases in the paragraph below.**

There are over 6,000 different species of dung beetle. They all have an appetite for poo! This insect can be found on every continent except Antarctica. Many are rollers. This means that they shape dung into perfect balls. To avoid them being stolen by jealous rivals, dung beetles use their powerful back legs to role the pungent balls to their underground nesting sites, where their hungry offspring eagerly await. Scientists have discovered that dung beetles only roll their prized balls in one direction, and will use both the sun and the twinkling stars of the Milky Way to help find their way home. Around noon, when the blazing sun is at its peak, an exhausted dung beetle can often be seen clambering to the top of its dung ball. It does so to cool off and prevent its feet from burning in the scorching sand.

**Challenge 2**

**Make these sentences more descriptive by putting an adjective before each noun.**

1. As the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sun was beating down, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cowpat was attracting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dung beetles from far and wide.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ front legs of a dung beetle are used for fighting and digging, whilst the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ back legs are used for rolling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dung balls.
3. Before finding a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cowpat, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dung beetle had flown many miles across the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ desert.
4. As the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ elephants moved away, the dung beetles set to work on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ piles of manure that had been left behind.
5. As the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stars lit up the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sky, the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ female began to lay her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ eggs inside a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dung ball.

**Challenge 3**

**Having read the information below on scarab beetles, write a character portrait of Khepri that includes lots of fabulous expanded noun phrases. See if you can include adjectives, relative clauses and prepositional phrases when expanding your noun phrases.**

A particular type of dung beetle called the scarab was very important to the Ancient Egyptians. Having observed the scarabs rolling dung around the desert, they likened this to their god of the rising sun - Khepri. By rolling the morning sun across the sky at the beginning of each new day, Khepri was responsible for the renewal of life. Consequently, scarab beetles came to represent rebirth and immortality. Amulets of the scarab were worn by the ancient Egyptians in the belief that they would give them eternal life and protection against the forces of evil.