

# Definitions starting with B

## beat (2)

v. to strike, in the following phrases:

**beat around the bush** [cf. US idiom and BUSH forest] phr. to live a hand-to-mouth existence with no fixed address. (Nassau)

**beat books** [cf. OED beat to labour at obs. 1659] phr. to study hard: He beat books too much—he don't play (Nassau).

**beat bush** [cf. [BUSH 4](#)] phr. to crush or pound medicinal plants for use in [BUSH MEDICINE](#): I know one bush Mama use to beat if we ha pain in we belly. (Cat)

**beat out** phr. to launder clothes by pounding them on rocks in a pond: They gone to the pond —had some clothes to beat out. (Acklins)

**beat your skin** [cf. US idiom tan your hide, same meaning, and [SKIN](#) body] phr. to beat someone up: He go beat you skin well and good. (Black)

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