



Whooshing through the air with wings that sparkle in the sunlight, meet the magical dragonfly! These colorful creatures are known for their long, slender bodies and large, multifaceted eyes that can see in all directions. Dragonflies have two pairs of strong, transparent wings that can beat independently, allowing them to fly forward, backward and hover in the air. Their unique look, with a body length ranging from 1 to 4 inches and wingspan up to 6 inches, makes them an enchanting sight to behold.



Carrying on from their captivating appearance, let's dive into the fascinating world of a dragonfly's life cycle. Dragonflies start their life as eggs, usually laid in or near water, and when they hatch, they turn into nymphs. Nymphs live in the water and go through several stages of growth before they climb up a plant stem to shed their skin and emerge as an adult dragonfly. This transformation from water-dwelling nymph to air-gliding adult is a captivating process called metamorphosis.

Speaking of water, dragonflies have quite an interesting diet, especially when they are nymphs. During their water-bound nymph stage, they feed on a variety of aquatic creatures, including mosquito larvae, fish, and even other dragonfly nymphs. Once they emerge as adults, they become excellent hunters, using their exceptional speed and agility to catch and eat insects while in flight. Their appetite for mosquitoes and flies makes them very beneficial to humans, as they help to control the populations of these annoying insects.



Let's wrap up with some fun facts about these dazzling creatures. Dragonflies have been around for a very long time - fossil records show that they existed over 300 million years ago! They are also known for their amazing endurance and speed, with some species capable of flying up to 60 miles per hour and migrating across oceans. So next time you spot a dragonfly, remember they are not just beautiful, they are ancient, helpful, and incredibly strong too.

**Solve each problem.****Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) What do adult dragonflies mainly feed on?
 - A. fruits and seeds
 - B. small fish
 - C. birds and mice
 - D. insects
- 2) What is the top speed that some dragonfly species can fly?
 - A. 90 miles per hour
 - B. 30 miles per hour
 - C. 10 miles per hour
 - D. 60 miles per hour
- 3) Where do dragonflies lay their eggs?
 - A. in or near water
 - B. in the air
 - C. in underground burrows
 - D. in trees
- 4) What can dragonflies help control the population of?
 - A. ants and spiders
 - B. birds and mice
 - C. mosquitoes and flies
 - D. bees and butterflies
- 5) How long ago did dragonflies exist according to fossil records?
 - A. over 300 million years ago
 - B. less than 50 million years ago
 - C. just a few hundred years ago
 - D. around 100 million years ago
- 6) What is the approximate size of a dragonfly's body?
 - A. 1 to 4 inches
 - B. 6 to 10 inches
 - C. 10 to 15 inches
 - D. 0.5 to 1 inch
- 7) What is the diet of dragonfly nymphs?
 - A. ants and spiders
 - B. plants and flowers
 - C. mosquito larvae, fish, and other dragonfly nymphs
 - D. bees and butterflies
- 8) Where do the nymphs live after they hatch from the eggs?
 - A. In the water
 - B. Inside the egg
 - C. In the soil
 - D. In trees
- 9) Where do dragonflies usually lay their eggs?
 - A. In or near water
 - B. On flowers or plants
 - C. On land in grassy areas
 - D. Underground
- 10) What is the first stage of a dragonfly's life?
 - A. They start as eggs
 - B. They start as caterpillars
 - C. They start as nymphs
 - D. They start as adults
- 11) How do dragonflies fly in different directions?
 - A. They use their tail to steer in different directions.
 - B. They change the shape of their body to control their flight direction.
 - C. They use their long legs to control their flight direction.
 - D. They have two pairs of wings that can beat independently.



Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 12) "I prefer to stay on land instead of going near water."
- 13) "I'm born as a fully grown dragonfly."
- 14) "As a baby, I start my life in water and when I grow up, I take to the skies!"
- 15) "I can only fly forward."
- 16) "I'm a vegetarian as an adult."
- 17) "I can't fly very far."
- 18) "When you see annoying insects like mosquitoes and flies, I see a delicious snack!"
- 19) "I'm a born traveler! I'm even capable of flying across oceans!"
- 20) "With my two pairs of strong, transparent wings, I can fly forwards, backwards and even hover!"
- 21) "I am a very slow flier."
- 22) "My wings are feathered."
- 23) "I can only look in one direction at a time."
- 24) "While in water, I nibble on mosquito larvae and occasionally other dragonfly nymphs."
- 25) "As a nymph, I feed on grass and leaves."
- 26) "Did you know I can be almost as big as a dollar bill? My body can be up to 4 inches long!"
- 27) "I can fly up to 60 miles per hour, faster than a car in your neighborhood!"
- 28) "In flight, I can snatch and eat insects in no time."
- 29) "Mosquitoes are my friends."
- 30) "I can see everywhere with my large and multifaceted eyes."
- 31) "I've existed even before humans, for over 300 million years!"

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 32) Adult dragonflies catch and eat bugs while they are flying.
- 33) Dragonflies are the best hunters among all insects because they can catch food while flying.
- 34) Before they become adult dragonflies, they live as nymphs in the water.
- 35) The speed at which some dragonflies can fly is utterly unbelievable.
- 36) Dragonflies have big eyes that can see around them in all directions.
- 37) It is very fascinating to learn that dragonflies can migrate across oceans, just like birds.
- 38) Dragonflies have been on Earth for more than 300 million years.
- 39) Dragonflies have two sets of wings that can move independently.
- 40) Dragonflies with their shimmering wings are the most beautiful insects.
- 41) The way dragonflies can fly forward, backward, and hover is absolutely amazing.

Determine if the statement is true or false.



- 66) Explain the life cycle of a dragonfly.
- 67) It's amazing how dragonflies transform from nymphs to adults!
- 68) Be gentle if a dragonfly lands on you.

Determine which choice is the conclusion that can be drawn from the statement.

- 69) Baby dragonflies feed on small aquatic creatures. What conclusion can be drawn about their initial stage of life?
- A. The initial stage of a dragonfly's life is spent in trees. B. The initial stage of a dragonfly's life is spent underwater.
- C. Baby dragonflies will only eat small creatures if there are no plants nearby. D. The initial stage of a dragonfly's life is spent on land.
- 70) Dragonflies have incredible speed and agility. What conclusion can we draw about their defense mechanism?
- A. Dragonflies rely on their speed to escape predators. B. Dragonflies don't have any defense mechanism.
- C. Dragonflies use venom to defend themselves. D. Dragonflies mimic other animals to avoid predators.
- 71) Dragonflies catch and eat their prey, including mosquitoes, while flying. What can be deduced about dragonflies based on this information?
- A. Dragonflies wait for their prey to land. B. Dragonflies are not capable of catching their food.
- C. Dragonflies eat plants. D. Dragonflies are skilled hunters.
- 72) Dragonflies have exceptional eyesight, and their eyes take up most of their head. What can be inferred about dragonflies from this information?
- A. Dragonflies don't use their eyes to hunt. B. Dragonflies are blind.
- C. Dragonflies have poor eyesight. D. Dragonflies rely heavily on their sight.
- 73) Female dragonflies lay their eggs in or near water and the nymphs live underwater until they transform into adults. What conclusion can be drawn about the type of habitat do dragonflies prefer?
- A. Dragonflies prefer habitats near bodies of water like ponds, lakes, and rivers. B. Dragonflies prefer living in dry, desert areas.
- C. Dragonflies prefer living in tree tops. D. Dragonflies prefer living in dark caves.



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Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

12) "I prefer to stay on land instead of going near water." (paragraph 2)