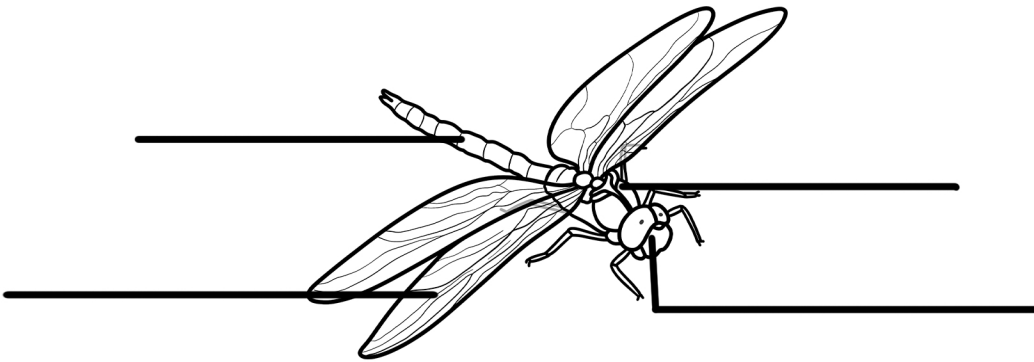


Dragons might be in fairy tales, but dragonflies are real and fascinating! Our story starts with a tiny egg, laid in or near water. Imagine a little egg so small, you might not see it if you're not looking carefully. This egg is the first step in the life of a dragonfly.

Now, from this tiny egg, something amazing happens. A nymph comes out! This nymph doesn't look much like a dragonfly yet. It lives in the water and loves to swim. It breathes underwater through gills, just like fish do! The nymph eats lots of food and grows bigger. It sheds its skin several times because it keeps getting too big for it. This part of the dragonfly's life can last up to two years.

One day, the nymph decides it's time to change. It climbs up a plant out of the water, and suddenly, its skin splits open for the last time. What comes out is a beautiful dragonfly! At first, its wings are soft and wrinkly, but soon they dry out and become strong enough for flying. The dragonfly then flies off to start the adventure of its adult life, darting back and forth over the water, looking almost like a fairy with its shiny wings.

This magical transformation from egg to nymph and finally to a dragonfly is called metamorphosis. Now, our dragonfly is ready to lay eggs and start the whole cycle over again.



Word Bank:

nymph

underwater

egg

metamorphosis

thorax wing head abdomen

What is the dragonfly's life cycle process called?



Where are dragonfly eggs laid?

What is the second stage of the life cycle called?

nymph



gills



dragonfly



wings



1. Nymphs can breathe
underwater.

true

false

2. Dragonflies can be in the
nymph stage for up to
two months.

true

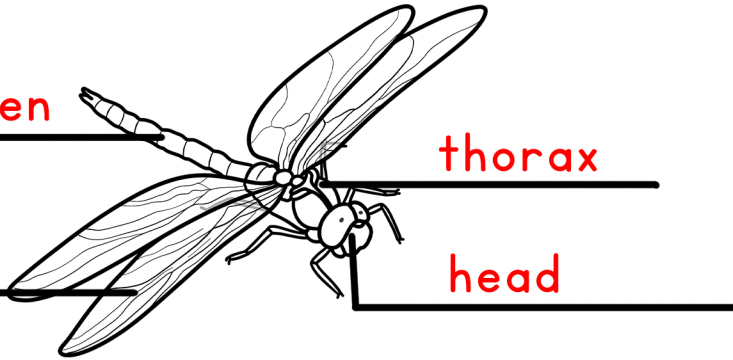
false

abdomen

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head



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