Dragonflies!

A Reading A–Z Level I Leveled Book
Word Count: 247

Connections

Writing

Using the information in this book, write a personal narrative from the perspective of a dragonfly.

Science

Design a habitat for a dragonfly. Use facts from the book to create your habitat.

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LEVELED BOOK • I

Dragonflies!

MULTI LEVEL I•L•O

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Focus Question

What makes the dragonfly an amazing insect?

Words to Know

adult	hunt
breathe	insects
direction	pairs

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Correlation

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Reading Recovery	15–16
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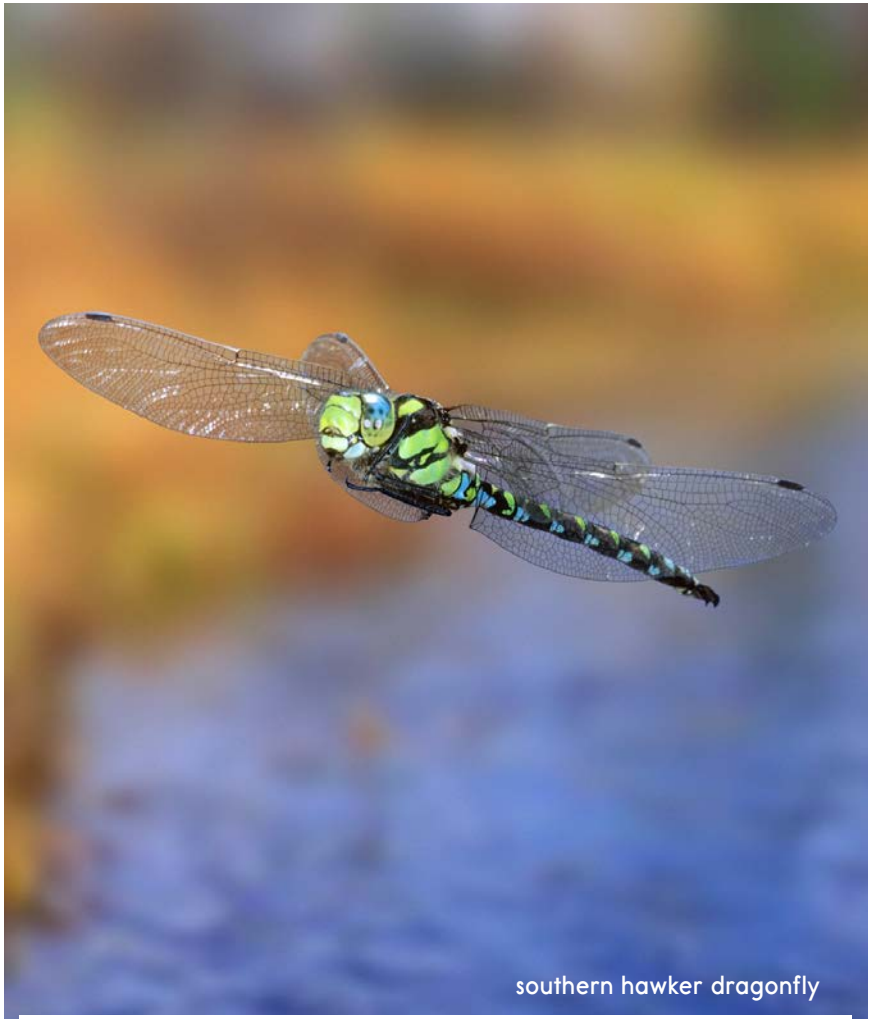


southern hawker dragonfly

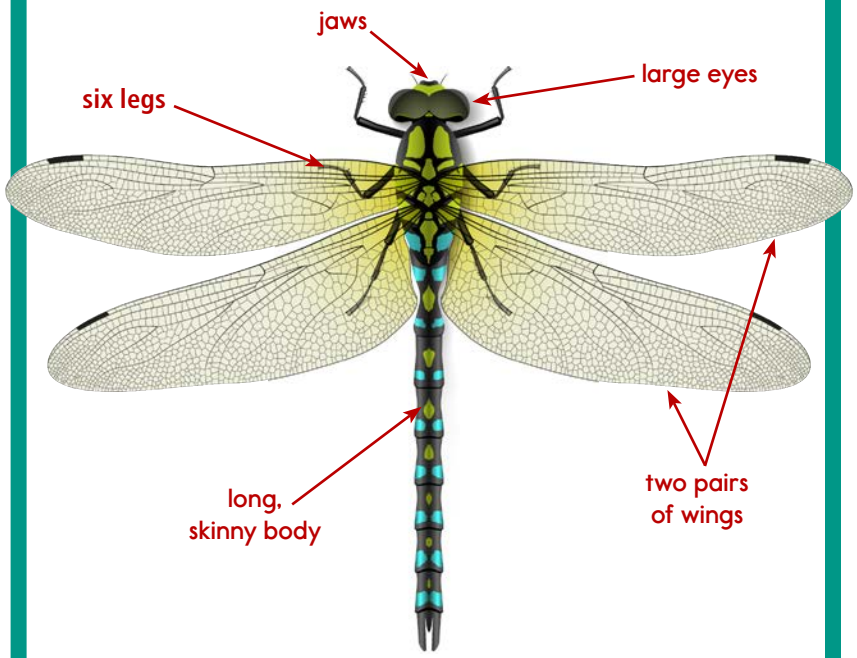
Amazing Dragonflies

Look! Something small and green is flying fast over the water. It's a dragonfly!

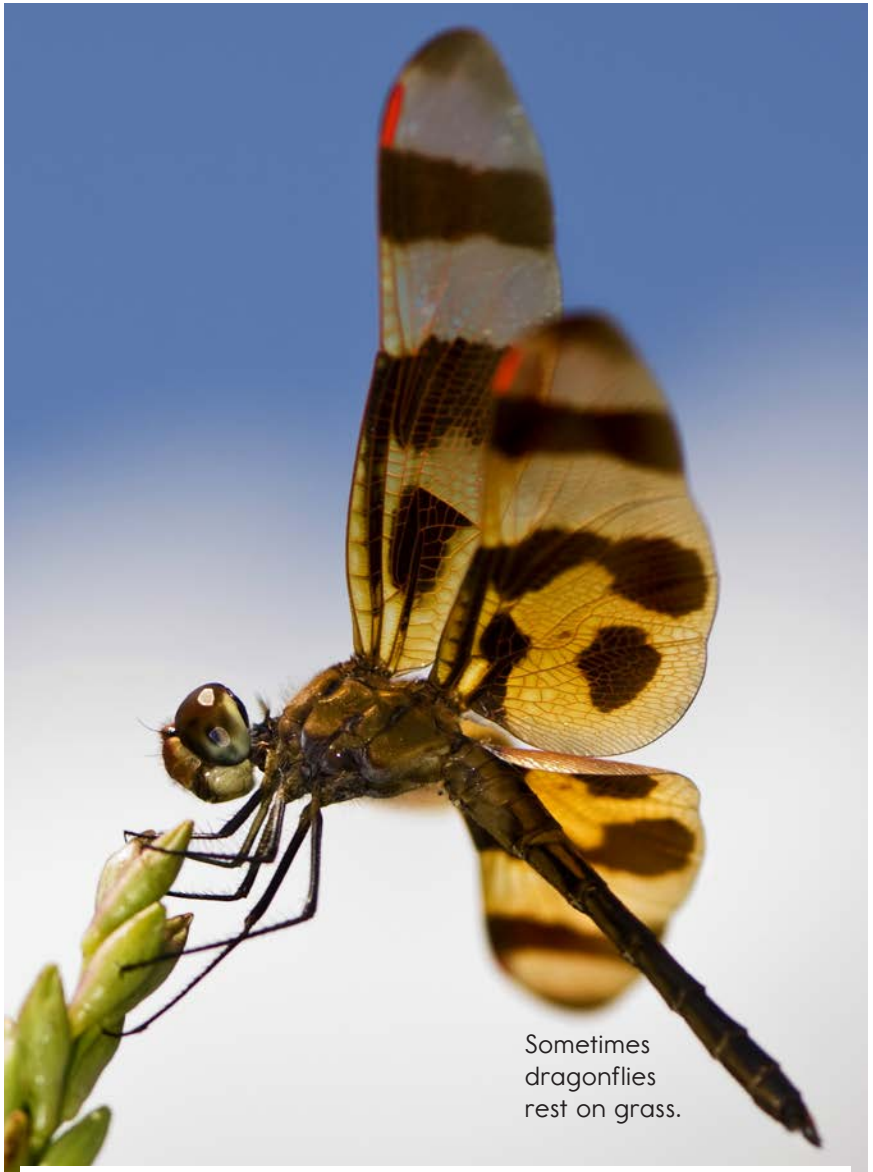
What Are Dragonflies?

Dragonflies are flying **insects** with two **pairs** of wings. They come in many colors. Dragonflies can be green, blue, gold, or even pink.

What Makes an Insect a Dragonfly?



A dragonfly has a large head; a long, skinny body; and two pairs of wings.



Sometimes dragonflies rest on grass.

Some dragonflies have stripes. Some change color over time.

Dragonflies always live close to water. They lay their eggs in or near water. The young dragonflies live in water for a year or more.

Some dragonflies lay their eggs in rotting wood under water (main). Some dragonflies can lay hundreds of eggs at a time (inset).

young dragonfly

Young Dragonflies

Young dragonflies look different from **adult** dragonflies. They can **breathe** under the water. Their green and brown colors help them hide from fish, frogs, and other hungry animals.

Super Sight

Adult dragonflies have the largest eyes of all the insects.

Each eye is made up of about thirty thousand tiny parts.

They can see almost all the way around at once.

Close up, dragonfly eyes look as if they are made of window screens.

Dragonflies can swoop and dive through the air.

Amazing Flight

Dragonflies are some of the fastest flying insects in the world.

They can change **direction** quickly in the air.

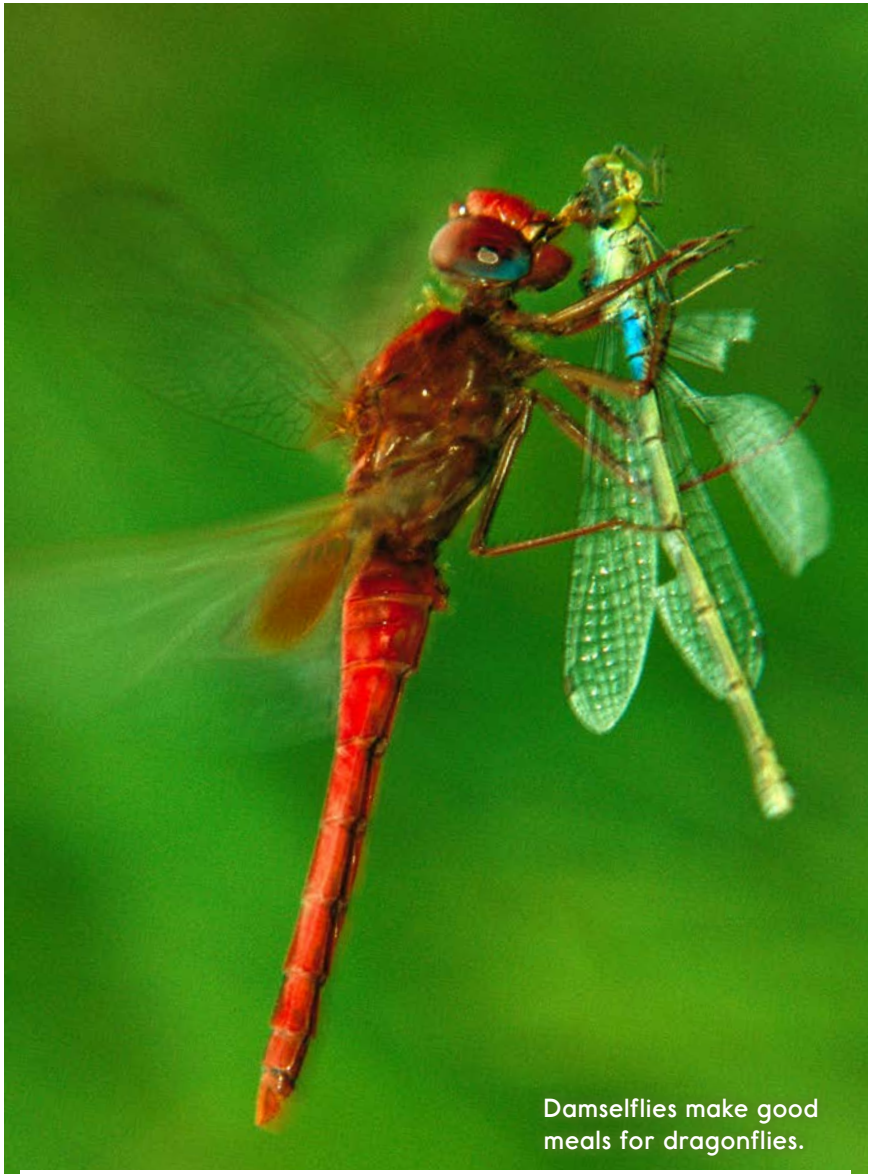
They can fly forward, backward, and even upside down!

Amazing Hunters

Adult dragonflies **hunt** small flying insects.

They catch these insects from behind and below.

Dragonflies eat mosquitos.



Damselflies make good meals for dragonflies.

They often eat their food in the air.

Small insects make good meals!

Dragonflies for Dinner

Birds, lizards, frogs, and spiders all like to eat dragonflies. Dragonflies eat other dragonflies, too. Not many animals can catch a dragonfly!

Some birds like to eat dragonflies.

Swarms

Sometimes dragonflies travel in large groups. These groups are called *swarms*.

Scientists say it is hard to take good pictures of dragonfly swarms.

A Safe Place for Dragonflies

In 1985, people in Japan created the world's first dragonfly park. Today there are also dragonfly parks in Europe and the United States. Dragonflies are amazing creatures—and people all over the world are starting to realize it!

The dragonfly park in Singapore has large statues of dragonflies in the lake.

Dragonflies Worldwide

There are nearly three thousand kinds of dragonflies.
They are found all around the world.
Look at your closest stream, pond, or lake. Maybe you can spot some dragonflies!

Glossary

adult *(adj.)* the stage in which a person or other animal is fully developed (p. 8)

breathe *(v.)* to take in and let out air through the nose or mouth (p. 8)

direction *(n.)* the way or course toward which something moves or faces (p. 10)

hunt *(v.)* to search for and kill wild animals for food (p. 11)

insects *(n.)* small animals with six legs, three body parts, and usually two sets of wings (p. 5)

pairs *(n.)* sets of two (p. 5)