



# Fantastic Fireflies

Fireflies are a magical thing to see on warm summer nights. Have you seen fireflies in your neighborhood? Discover some cool firefly facts below and try the following activities the next time you see these glowing beauties!



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## A Rainbow of Colors



There are many different kinds of fireflies around the world. They are usually found in open fields and at woodland edges, especially near water. Most glow with a greenish-yellow light, but some glow red, orange, and even blue! The light in a firefly's **abdomen** (tail) does not give off any heat. It is produced by a chemical reaction, similar to the light in a glow stick.

*How many different colors of firefly lights can you find?*

## Do You See a Pattern?

In addition to different colors, fireflies have varying flash patterns. For example, some fireflies flash once every 2 seconds, while some do a double-flash every 4 seconds. Male fireflies tend to flash shorter and more frequently, while females flash longer and less frequently.

*Try to watch one firefly for 2 minutes, and count the seconds between its flashes. Once you know its pattern, try the same thing with a different firefly!*



## Synchronous Fireflies

Some fireflies, called **synchronous** fireflies, can all flash at the same time! These kinds of fireflies are very rare and can only be found in certain parts of the world. To learn where, and to see a cool video of this amazing phenomenon, visit:

[www.firefly.org/synchronous-fireflies.html](http://www.firefly.org/synchronous-fireflies.html)

*Color the firefly and her friends!*

