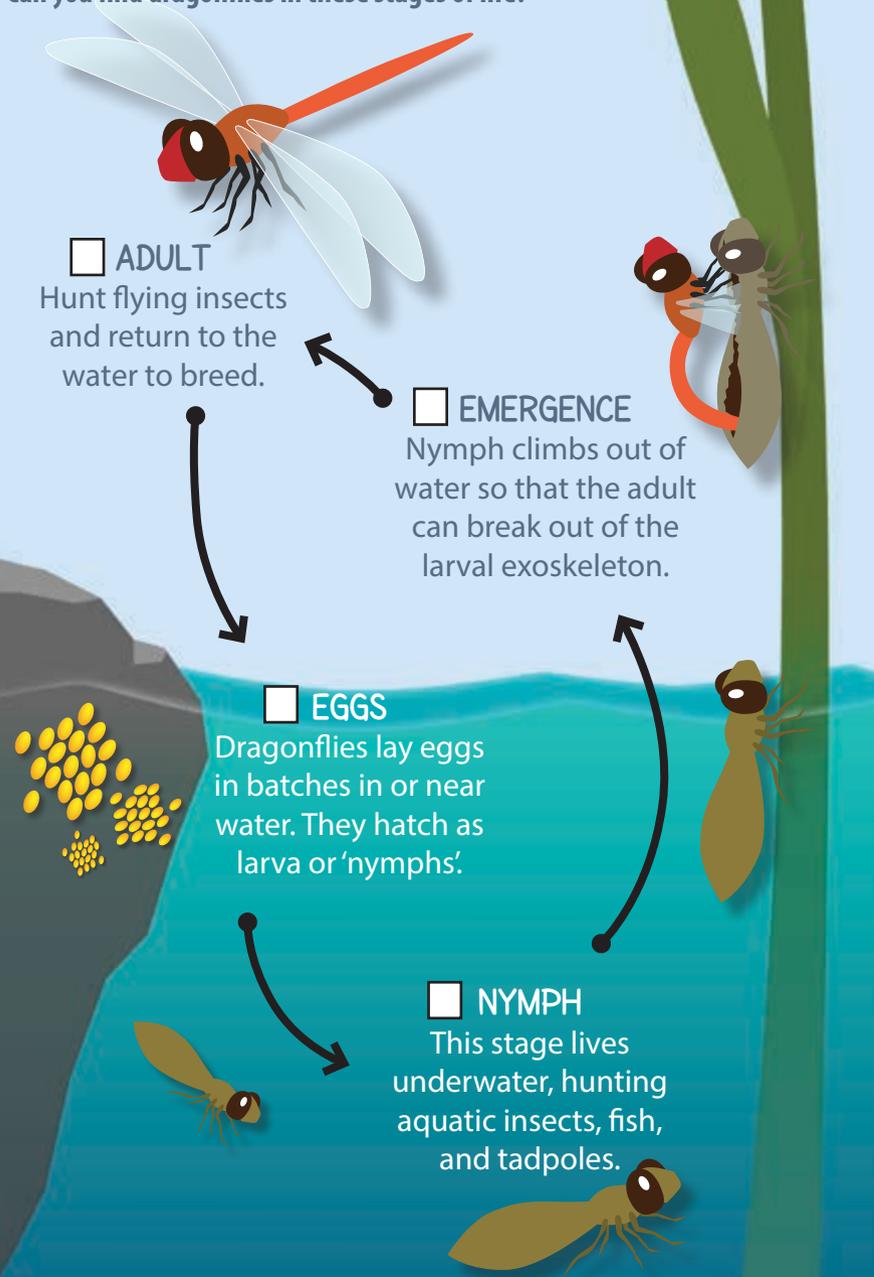


# Life Cycle

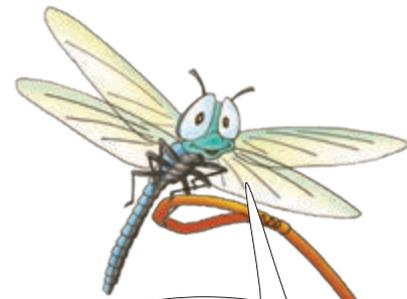
Dragonflies begin life in the water before becoming the fierce hunters of the sky. Can you find dragonflies in these stages of life?



**TRACK** your hike at

[kidsinparks.com](http://kidsinparks.com)

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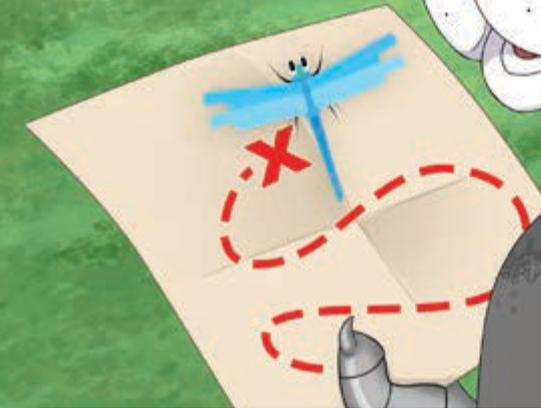


# a Quest for Dragons



Legends tell of a fierce flying creature with colorful plates of armor on its body. It hunts with an endless appetite! Let's find it, TRACK!

Hey, this dragon looks a lot like you, KIP!



Use this brochure as a guide on your quest to discover the incredible world of dragonflies.

# Dazzling Dragonflies

There are over 300 species of dragonflies in the United States. They can be found soaring and swooping over ponds, rivers, and swamps across the country.

## A Closer Look

### Eyes

Can quickly scan 360 degrees for prey.

### Antennae

Work like anemometers, measuring wind speed and direction.

### Jaws

Strong jaws and sharp teeth secure and cut through prey.

### Cool Fact!

Dragonflies belong to the order *Odonata*, from the Greek word for 'tooth'.

## Perfect Predators

A dragonfly's eyes, wings, and brain work together to make it one of the best hunters in the animal world. Dragonflies catch 95% of the prey they chase. A lion only catches about 15% of the prey they chase. Can you find some of the dragonfly's favorite snacks?



mosquito

butterfly

moth

fly

## Flight Path

Unique wings allow dragonflies to fly in any direction at any time. Focus on one dragonfly and draw its flight path below.



Abdomen

Thorax

Head

## Insect Anatomy

Like all insects, dragonflies have three main body parts. Find these parts on a dragonfly. Use the illustration above as a guide.

### Head

Eyes, antennae, mouth, and brain.

### Thorax

Powerful muscles control wings and legs.

### Abdomen

Has 10 segments on all dragonflies.

## Prehistoric Pilots

Dragonflies have existed for about 300 million years. That's before the dinosaurs! Fossils show dragonflies with wingspans of over two feet.

What is the biggest dragonfly you can find? Use this ruler to estimate the size.

size in inches



## Many Shapes and Colors

Dragonflies come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Color is one of the best ways to identify a dragonfly. Can you find these colored dragonflies?



yellow

ruby meadowhawk



green

eastern pondhawk



orange

halloween pennant



blue

blue dasher



red

red saddlebags



purple

roseate skimmer

