

Title: Dragons of the Insect World: The Dragonfly

Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

hatched	fossil	hover	prey	dew
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1. She found an interesting plant _____ while walking on the beach.
2. Rats and mice often become _____ for cats.
3. Early in the morning, the grass is wet with _____.
4. The baby birds had no feathers when they first _____.
5. Helicopters can _____, but planes cannot.

Reading Comprehension

A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Dragonflies have four wings. T / F
2. In some species, males and females are different colors. T / F
3. Dragonflies do not have many natural enemies. T / F
4. Dragonflies that lived long ago were smaller than today's species. T / F
5. People's nicknames for dragonflies showed that they liked them. T / F

B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Nymphs get food (by hunting / from adult dragonflies).
2. Dragonflies lay their eggs (in water / on the ground).
3. Dragonflies may remain (eggs / nymphs) for up to five years.
4. When in danger, dragonflies usually (attack / fly away).
5. Dragonflies cannot fly when their wings are (wet / dirty).

C. Choose the best answer.

1. How many body parts do dragonflies have?

- a. Two
- b. Three
- c. Four
- d. Six

2. Which is NOT true about damselflies?

- a. They are similar to dragonflies.
- b. They fold their wings when resting.
- c. They have eyes that often touch each other.
- d. They belong to a group of about 5,200 species.

3. Dragonflies have two different ways of _____.

- a. hunting
- b. molting
- c. migrating
- d. hatching

4. Which is probably the biggest dragonfly alive today?

- a. The Pygmy Dragonfly
- b. The Blue Helicopter
- c. The Giant Petaltail
- d. The Hawker

5. Which is true about dragonflies?

- a. They sting horses.
- b. Their bites are painful to people.
- c. They sometimes damage crops.
- d. They are respected in some countries.

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

predators	molt	nicknames	jaw	wingspans
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Dragonflies are colorful flying insects. Their large eyes let them see in every direction at once. They come in almost every color, but their wings are often clear. Dragonflies are fast fliers. Their name may come from the fact that they are _____. A dragonfly shoots its _____ out to stab prey, such as mosquitoes. These insects migrate over long distances, and they live almost everywhere in the world, often near lakes. Young dragonflies, or nymphs, have no wings. They _____ several times before they become full-sized. Dragonflies face danger from predators all their lives. Adult dragonflies defend themselves by flying away. The largest dragonflies have _____ of sixteen centimeters. The smallest are only about fifteen millimeters long. Dragonfly species have interesting names that often describe how they look. For example, the Pygmy Dragonfly is small. They also have _____ such as "eye pokers" that show people used to be afraid of them. But they are actually harmless to people and eat insects that bother us. We should appreciate these beautiful insects.