

# Interesting facts about dragonflies

Information/Listening Exercise

Track  
9/10

Read the facts about dragonflies

- The dragonfly is a very old animal. It is as old as dinosaurs. You can find it all over the world close to water like ponds, lakes and rivers.
- A dragonfly has got three stages of a life cycle. First this insect starts as an egg. The female dragonfly lays up to 1.500 eggs on plants near water.
- When the eggs hatch, nymphs appear. They drop into the water and start to swim. There they can stay for up to two years. Nymphs love to eat mosquito larvae and tadpoles.
- When it grows up to an adult, it climbs out of the water. Its body shell cracks open and the dragonfly comes out. The new body is still soft and needs to dry and harden.
- A dragonfly is an insect and has got six legs and a body made of a head, a thorax and an abdomen. Because of its four wings the dragonfly can fly in all directions. It flaps its wings only 30 times per second. A bee flaps its wings 300 times per second. A dragonfly flies very fast. From 18km/h up to 36km/h.
- With its big eyes it can see its prey very well. The dragonfly eats insects like moths, flies, butterflies and mosquitos while it flies.
- Dragonflies have to watch out for birds, frogs, bigger dragonflies, spiders and fish. These animals eat dragonflies.
- Adult dragonflies sometimes only live for a few weeks, some for a year. Dragonflies come in different colours like blue, red, yellow and green. They can be small – about 2 cm – and a wingspan of up to 20 cm.

Read and check	True	False
Dragonflies have four stages of a life cycle.		
Eggs are laid in a nest.		
When an egg hatches, a nymph comes out.		
Nymphs cannot swim.		
A dragonfly has got six legs.		
A dragonfly has got a head, a thorax and an abdomen.		
A dragonfly has got six wings.		
A dragonfly can eat while it flies.		
Spiders eat dragonflies.		
Dragonflies are only brown.		