



Nymphs & Dragonflies Game

Introduction

In the book *Eliza and the Dragonfly* by Susie Caldwell Reinhart, children are introduced to the life cycle of a dragonfly. This activity is a variation of the popular game of sharks and minnows. It can be played outside or in a gym and will help the students remember important facts about dragonflies and insect life cycles.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Large open space such as a gym
- ◆ Painters tape
- ◆ A list of true/false questions related to dragonflies and their lifecycles

Key Concepts

- ◆ Behavior is influenced by internal cues (hunger) and external cues (change in environment).
- ◆ Organisms can cause changes.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Divide the class into two groups. One team is the 'Nymphs'; the other team is the 'Dragonflies'.
2. Each team spreads out along a defined line facing the other team about 20 feet apart. There are two more lines (taped on the gym floor) about 30-40 feet behind each team.
3. The teacher makes a list of true and false statements relating to dragonflies. Throw in some very silly ones for fun and be sure they understand that dragonflies don't eat nymphs! One team is designated to chase the other team when the statement is false; the other team chases when the statement is true.
4. Players tagged before crossing the line behind them join the opposite team. To add a challenge, the dragonflies (fewer of them) can fly whereas the nymphs must "swim" and the children can come up with what flying and swimming looks like in a gym.
5. The game is ended when the teacher calls it, or when all players are on one team.

Nature Connections

◆ For information to base the true/false questions on, see the back page of *Eliza and the Dragonfly* or the website *Fun Facts About Dragonflies* located at <http://www.dragonflysite.com/dragonfly-facts.html>

◆ In a variation of the game, have one side be a different stage of the dragonfly life-cycle and the other side be a food source. Students must "tag" the appropriate food source in order to remove them from the game. If an incorrect food source is tagged, the predator is removed from the game.

Additional Resources

More information on pond insects can be found on these websites:

The Dragonfly Woman

<http://thedragonflywoman.com/>

Pond Life

<http://www.teachers.ash.org.au/jmresources/pond/life.html>

Identifying Aquatic Insects

<http://www.penobscotswcd.org/publications/insects.pdf>

Water Insect Stages

<http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/pond/insects.html>