



What Do Dragonflies Eat?

Introduction

In the book *Eliza and the Dragonfly* by Susie Caldwell Reinhart, children are introduced to the life cycle of a dragonfly. In this activity, students complete a craft project to highlight what dragonflies eat during the three stages of life: egg, nymph, and adult.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Card stock
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Metal paper clips
- ◆ Small magnets
- ◆ Glue gun, glue, or tape
- ◆ Long dowels or sticks for "fishing"

Key Concepts

- ◆ Models can be used in explanations.
- ◆ Tools help scientists make better observations, measurements, and equipments for investigations.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. The teacher makes cardstock stencils of three things dragonflies would eat as nymphs such as: mosquito larvae, tadpoles, and small fish; three stencils of things dragonflies would eat as adults: gnats, flies, mosquitos, and bees; and three stencils of things a dragonfly would never eat: any vegetable - they are carnivorous - and silly things such as ice cream or a hamburger.
2. Have children outline the stencils on colored paper and cut the shapes out.
3. Have students tape or glue a metal paperclip to the back side of each food, and then tape or glue magnets onto the sticks.
4. Children the fish for a magnet and turn it over to decide if it's something a dragonfly or a nymph might eat.

Nature Connections

◆ A teacher can also make cardboard stencils of different stages of the dragonfly life cycle for kids to outline and cut out. Tape paperclips to back sides of the life stages cutouts. Glue magnets to sticks. Color a dragonfly habitat on a piece of paper. Kids can 'magically/magnetically' move their dragonfly life stages around the habitat without using their hands and tell the story of their life cycle (magnet under paper, paperclips on top of paper).

◆ Alternatively, have students create habitat collages from magazine clippings. Place the life cycle cutouts in the appropriate place on the collage and display in the classroom.

Additional Resources

Resources about dragonflies:

- ◆ **Fun Facts About Dragonflies**
<http://www.dragonfly-site.com/dragonfly-facts.html>
- ◆ **What do dragonflies eat?**
<http://www.dragonfly-site.com/what-do-dragonflies-eat.html>
- ◆ **Dragon Lifecycle Worksheet**
<http://www.kidzone.ws/animals/dragonflylifecycle.htm>
- ◆ **To Catch a Dragonfly**
<http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/2006/12/to-catch-a-dragonfly-3/>