

Word Search

P C E K T K E I E N E E I M T
W L M E E K G E L T J S P C T
Q X U D R A G O N F L Y O V D
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I P O X I S D I I S I E L X L
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H X L I O E X N G Y M T T H U
H F E P R E H I S T O R I C E
S L U R Y N Y M P H S I O L H
L A K E S F O V A C Q V N D F
X S R D R O P I N C U E S H S
M P Z A G Y Y L S J I R C E Y
D O S T Y H L D M N T E M B L
T E C O S Y S T E M O L O L P
A B E R Y B I A G Y H T K W Z
H O N F E N E E E R H N B S C
D B Y R O H F F R H S Z W F E
N X T J T Y N N E K G M X F I
U X M M R M S M H J P M E H O
Y H J L H Z I N S N K S M F S

DRAGONFLY
POLLUTION
EGGS
RIVER
PREY

LAKE
POND
NYMPH
MOSQUITO
TERRITORY

ECOSYSTEM
PREHISTORIC
WINGSPAN
PREDATOR
FLYING



Did you know that dragonflies are older than the dinosaurs?



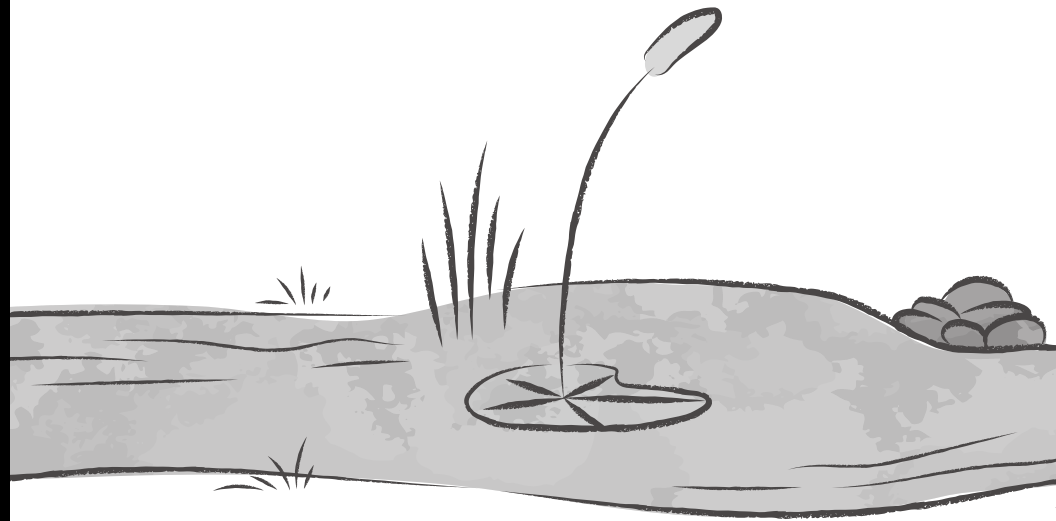
Dragonflies have been around for at least 300 million years, and the first dinosaurs arose about 50 million years later.



Dip into this story to find out more!

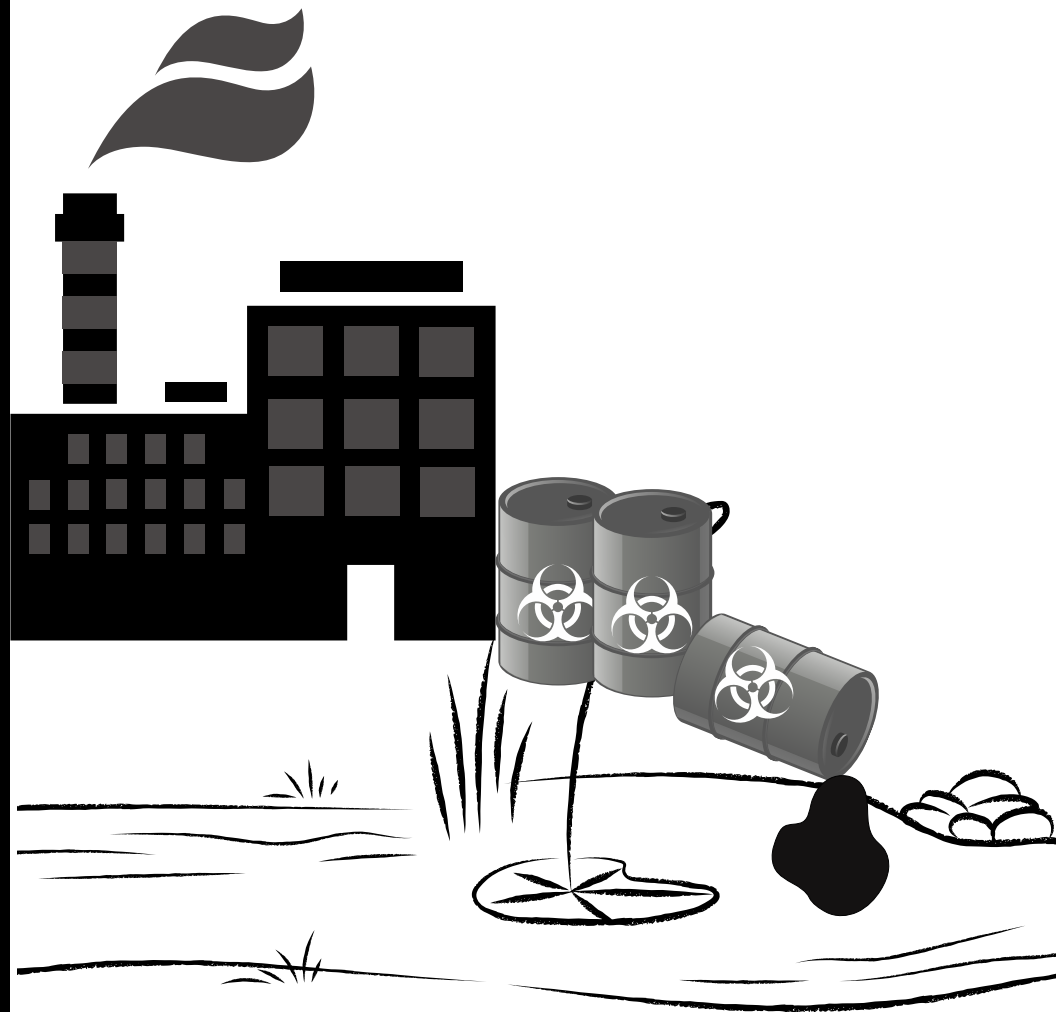
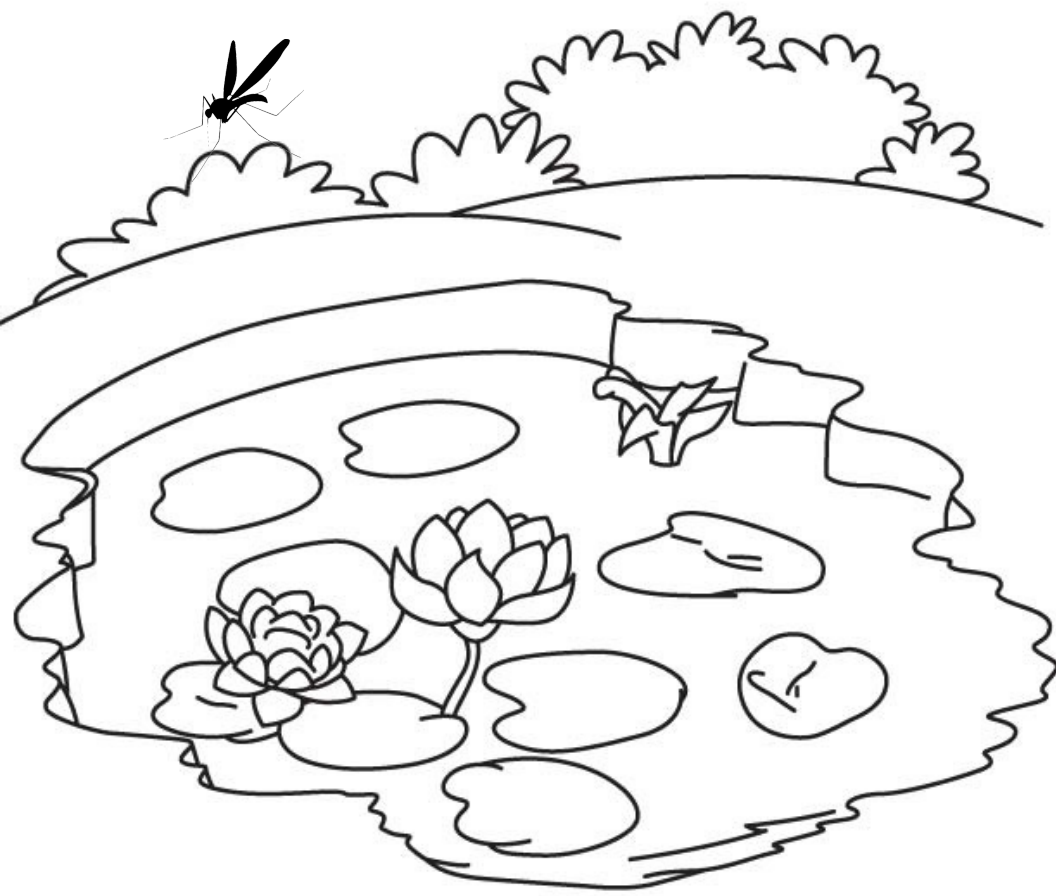


Dragonflies lay their eggs on plants that live in or near freshwater bodies like rivers, lakes, and ponds. Use the plant stickers to make a good place for a dragonfly to lay its eggs and TWO of the adult dragonflies.



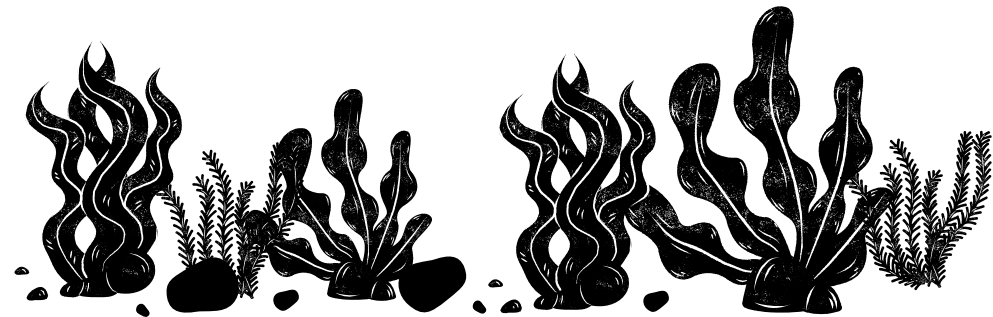
Some of the largest flying insects that ever existed were prehistoric dragonflies that lived before the first dinosaurs existed. Fossils show that these ancient dragonflies were even older than the dinosaurs with wingspans just over two feet wide! How does this compare to your height or wingspan (arm-span)? Draw yourself next to one of these creatures for scale.

Adult dragonflies have territories over bodies of fresh water so that they have a good place to lay their eggs when they are ready. They are strong, agile fliers and hunt other insects which they catch in mid-air. Draw the path a dragonfly might take to catch an unsuspecting mosquito.



Oh no! A factory uphill of the lake accidentally spilled some toxic sludge into the lake. Now the plants are sick so there are fewer places for dragonflies to lay eggs, and fewer insects - including dragonfly nymphs - can survive in the water. Use the stickers to show .

Fortunately, the factory learned from its mistakes and became more careful to prevent future pollution. Over time, the toxic sludge dissipated, the plants recovered, and the dragonflies and other creatures could live safely in the lake again. Use stickers to show the healthy plants and animals returning to the ecosystem!



When a baby dragonfly hatches, it is called a nymph. Dragonfly nymphs live in the water, where they swim around and eat smaller creatures, including baby mosquitoes. Go, dragonfly nymph, go! And look out for hungry fish... Use the stickers to show some creatures a dragonfly nymph might interact with under the water.