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The Amazing Life Cycle of a Dragonfly



Have you ever seen a dragonfly zipping through the air on a sunny day? These incredible insects have an amazing life cycle that takes them from water to sky. Let's explore the journey of a dragonfly's life from birth to adulthood.

A dragonfly begins its life as an egg. Female dragonflies lay their eggs in or near water, such as ponds, lakes, or marshes. Some species deposit eggs directly in the water, while others attach

them to plants. The eggs hatch after a few days or weeks, depending on the species and the temperature.

Once the eggs hatch, tiny dragonfly nymphs emerge. Nymphs look very different from adult dragonflies. They are brown or green, with small bodies and no wings. Nymphs live underwater, where they hunt small creatures like tadpoles, tiny fish, and other insects. They are fierce hunters, using a special lower jaw that shoots out to grab prey. Dragonfly nymphs spend months—or even years—living and growing underwater. During this time, they molt several times, shedding their skin as they grow larger.

When a nymph is ready to become an adult, it climbs out of the water and attaches itself to a plant or rock. This is when the most incredible transformation happens! The nymph's skin splits open, and a fully grown dragonfly crawls out. It takes a few hours for the dragonfly's wings to dry and harden, but soon it is ready to fly.

As adults, dragonflies spend their time flying, hunting, and finding mates. They are excellent flyers and can hover, zip forward, and even fly backward. Adult dragonflies don't live as long as nymphs, usually only a few weeks to a few months. During this short time, they play an important role in nature by helping to control insect populations.

The dragonfly's life cycle shows how this insect is perfectly adapted to its surroundings. From tiny eggs to skilled hunters of the sky, dragonflies have a fascinating journey through life.