

Name _____



How Dragonflies Talk Without Words

Dragonflies may not speak like humans, but they have their own unique ways of communicating. They use movements, colors, and behaviors to send messages to one another. These clever insects don't need sounds or scents—they rely on their incredible flying skills and dazzling appearance to interact with others.

One of the main ways dragonflies communicate is through their flight. Male dragonflies are known to be territorial. They zoom around their favorite spots near water, flying in circles or zigzags to warn other males to stay away. If another male enters their territory, they may chase or even bump into the intruder to defend their space. This flying behavior is like a warning signal, telling others, "This spot is mine!"

Dragonflies also use their colors to communicate. Males often have bright, shimmering colors like blue, green, or red. These colors can attract females during mating season. A female may notice a male's bold colors and smooth flying moves, signaling he is strong and healthy.

Sometimes, dragonflies interact without realizing it. For example, when several dragonflies hunt in the same area, they might avoid collisions by watching each other's movements. This shows how they use their incredible eyesight to stay aware of their surroundings and communicate through actions, even if they aren't doing it on purpose.

Dragonflies' communication isn't as obvious as the sounds of birds or the buzzing of bees, but it's just as effective. Their ability to send messages through flight and color helps them protect their territory, find mates, and live peacefully with others. The next time you see a dragonfly darting across the sky, remember—it might be saying something without making a sound.