

Name _____

Fireflies: Nature's Tiny Lanterns

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Fireflies produce light through a process called bioluminescence. Oxygen mixes with chemicals like luciferin and luciferase in their lanterns, creating a bright, cold light. This is unique because it produces no heat.
2. Protecting firefly habitats ensures they can survive and continue their role in controlling pests and signaling a healthy environment.
3. Light pollution makes it harder for fireflies to see each other's signals, disrupting their ability to find mates.
4. You might notice male fireflies flashing in patterns to attract females, and females responding with flashes of their own. This behavior helps them communicate and find mates.

