

Dragonfly Drama

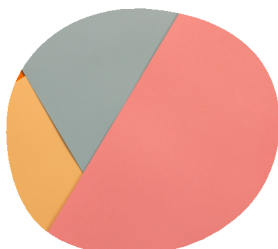
The Parks Trust
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How well do you know the lifecycle of a dragonfly? Living in water as a baby and flying through the air as an adult, the life of a dragonfly is very interesting! For this activity, work together with your JPR group to create a mini wildlife theatre that shows how these insects reproduce.

What you'll need:



Cereal box or similar



Card



A handful of sticks, 20-30cm long



Glue



Scissors



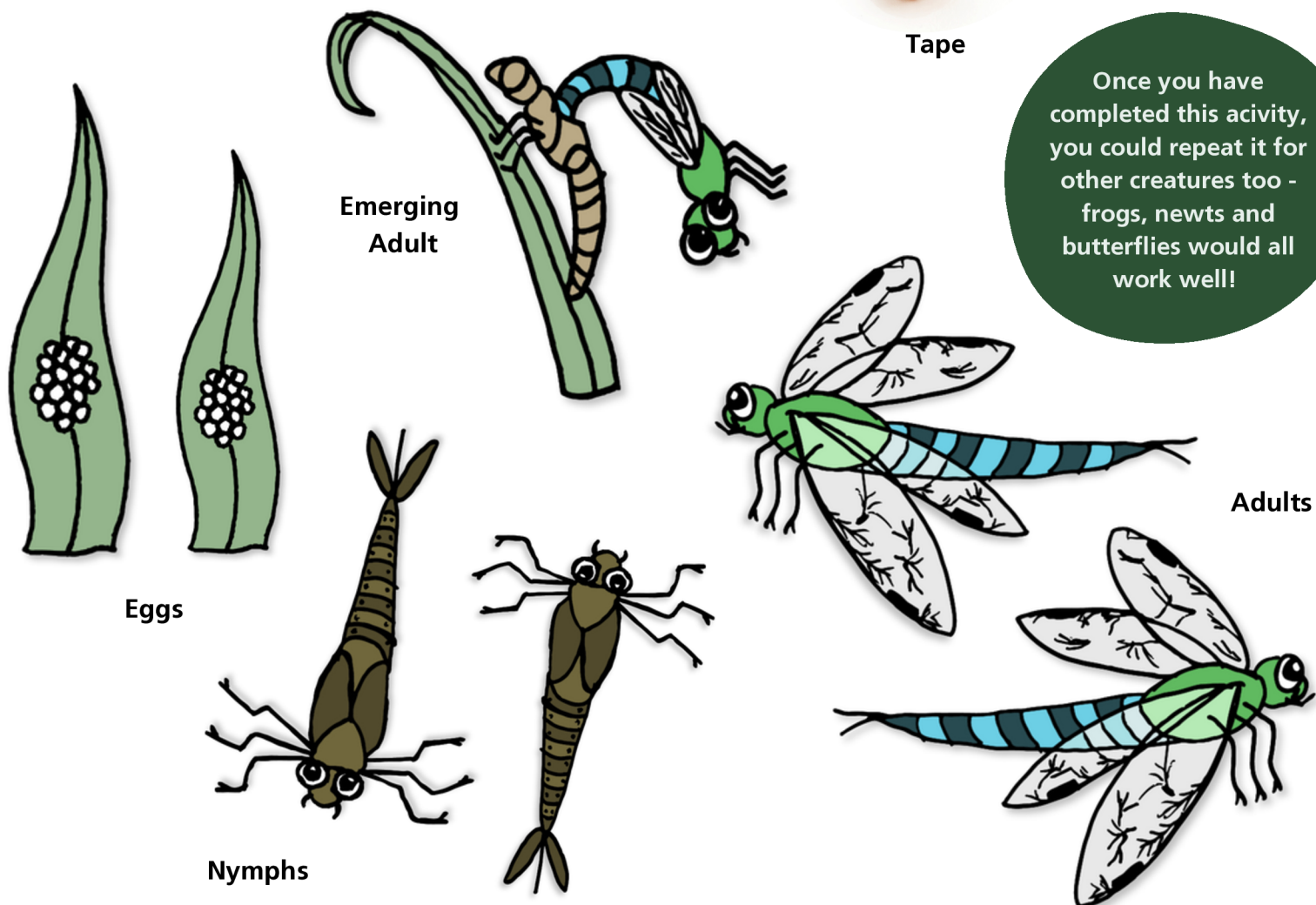
Colouring pens or pencils



Tape

Lifecycle Stages:

Create your own on card, or cut these images out and stick onto card.



Once you have completed this activity, you could repeat it for other creatures too - frogs, newts and butterflies would all work well!

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How to make your theatre:

Step 1:

Draw your own pictures straight onto a piece of card, or roughly cut out the creatures on the first page and stick them to a piece of card.

Step 2:

Cut out your card creatures carefully - these will be your puppets. Tape each one to the end of a stick.

Step 3:

Ask an adult for help cutting off the front of your cereal box. Cut a long slit down the two shorter sides of your box. This is where your puppets will slot in.



Step 4:

Create some scenery using card and coloured pens/pencils. Think about the pond itself as well as plants and other animals you might find in and around it. Use your imagination!

Step 5:

Add your scenery to the inside of the box., including at the front, middle and back to make your theatre extra interesting.

Step 6:

Insert your puppets into the slots and move them around to show the lifecycle of a dragonfly using the notes below! Perform your show to others in your school so they can learn too!



Lifecycle:

Stage 1 - Eggs

A female dragonfly can lay hundreds of eggs in her short life. She will usually lay them in leaves and stems in or right next to water.



Stage 2 - Nymphs

2-5 weeks later, nymphs emerge from the eggs. These must live in water. They will stay a nymph longer than they are an adult! They are fierce predators, eating worms, tadpoles and even fish. They will moult (shed their skin) 5-14 times - this allows them to grow bigger.

Stage 3 - Final Molt

The nymph will spend time at the edge of the water, starting to breathe air. It will then climb up a reed or somewhere else sheltered, and usually will hang upside down. The exoskeleton splits open and the fully-grown adult emerges!

Stage 4 - Adult

The dragonfly will need to learn to fly, and will usually only live for two weeks. Its main aim is to reproduce so it spends time hunting for food and looking for a mate. Adult dragonflies are very fierce predators too, snatching their prey from mid-air!