

## Growing Up as a Dragonfly

I am a little animal, but I go through big changes. My **life cycle** takes place in **stages**. I look very different at each stage. There is a big word for these changes - **metamorphosis**.

My life cycle has three stages.

The first stage is an egg. My mother lays the egg in water.

The second stage starts when I hatch from the egg. Now I am called a **nymph**. You can see my six legs. That makes me an **insect**. I live underwater and breathe with **gills**.



For the third stage I climb out of the water. My skin dries out and cracks open. Now you can see my new body. It is long, thin, and colorful. My gills are gone. Now I breathe air. My wings stretch out. I start to fly and catch tiny insects to eat.

Do you know what I am? I am an adult dragonfly.



1. Color the pictures of each stage of the dragonfly's life cycle.
2. Write the name of the stage on the line next to each drawing, or cut out the names below and glue or tape them next to the correct drawing.

*eggs*

*nymph*

*adult dragonfly*

3. Cut out each drawing.
4. Label the drawings #1, #2, and #3 to put the stages of the dragonfly's life cycle in the right order.

