

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## A Year in the Life of a Dragonfly Reading Questions

1. How long do most “temperate-zone dragonflies” (like those in Massachusetts) live? Total \_\_\_\_\_  
As nymphs \_\_\_\_\_  
As adults \_\_\_\_\_
2. Dragonflies, like many other insects, don’t go through complete metamorphosis like butterflies do. Instead, they undergo *incomplete metamorphosis*, which includes the three stages of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Define *molt*: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Define *emergence*: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What time of day does emergence usually occur? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why is this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. “If you come across a dragonfly at this point in the emergence process, you will see what looks like two almost identical insects, perched close together” (pg. 10). Explain what the two insects really are.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Define *teneral*: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Why is a teneral dragonfly easy food for birds? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Where does a juvenile adult dragonfly go as soon as they can fly?

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What do they do there? \_\_\_\_\_

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10. What is the difference between dragonfly species that lay round eggs and those that lay oval eggs? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Dragonfly eggs in rivers and streams are usually covered in a thin layer of sticky jelly. What does this jelly do? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. How soon after hatching does a *protonymph* molt for the first time?

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13. What color are most dragonfly nymphs? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Spiracles are holes in an adult dragonfly's thorax (chest) and abdomen (stomach).

What do they use their spiracles for? \_\_\_\_\_

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15. Dragonfly nymphs breath through gills inside their anus.

a. What's a great "side benefit" of doing this? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_

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b. What can dragonfly nymphs do with *fecal pellets* (balls of poop)?

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c. That's disgusting! How do they avoid breathing in poop-polluted water?

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16. Make a sketch below of a dragonfly nymph, showing its labium stretched out.

17. How is a nymph's labium like a spear-gun? \_\_\_\_\_

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18. Name four ways dragonfly nymphs avoid being eaten.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

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b. \_\_\_\_\_

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c. \_\_\_\_\_

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d. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Dragonflies: Rulers of the Sky

1. *Prodonata* were prehistoric dragonflies.
  - a. What was their wingspan? \_\_\_\_\_ inches
  - b. About how many feet is that? \_\_\_\_\_ feet
  
2. *Odonata* (the scientific name for dragonflies and damselflies) is similar to the word orthodontist (a kind of dentist who specializes in preventing and correcting irregularities of the teeth, for example with braces). Why are the names so similar?

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