

eMPower™ **ME**

STUDENT  
SAMPLE ITEM BOOKLET

Reading

Grade 3





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# Sample Items

## Directions

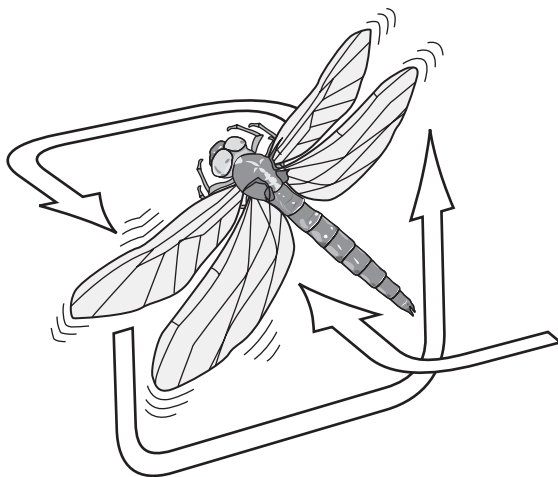
Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

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### Dragonflies: Interesting Insects

*by Cindy McKinley*

- 1 Have you ever seen a dragonfly? Because they are insects, they have three body parts: the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. On their head, they have large eyes that help them see well to hunt for food and avoid predators. Each eye has 28,000 lenses! That is many more than the one lens in each of our human eyes.
- 2 On their thorax, you will find 2 sets of very large wings. If you look closely, you will see net-like veins in their wings that actually help soak up the sun. They beat very fast and help the dragonfly move forward, backward, and even sideways. The dragonfly can even **hover** like a helicopter to stay still in the air. This helps it search for food like mosquitoes. It can fly 40 miles per hour, which helps it stay away from predators such as birds, spiders, and frogs.



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- 3 You will usually find dragonflies near water. This is where they are born and where they find their food. You might find them around ponds, lakes, rivers, and swamps. If you make a pond or some small body of water in your yard, you might be able to invite them to your house!
- 4 A dragonfly is born as larva and stays that way for up to four years. Then it climbs out of the water, breaks out of its casing, and becomes an adult dragonfly. Even though it is a very good flyer, the dragonfly only lives as an adult for a very short time: about a month or two.
- 5 Many people think that dragonflies can bite or sting, but they don't. They do have teeth to bite their food, but they cannot bite human skin. So, don't be afraid of them. The next time you see one flying by, wait for it to land and then take a good look. Up close, look at the wings and those big eyes. Do you think it sees you? What else can you see on this very interesting insect?



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*This question has two parts. Be sure to answer both parts of the question.*

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
- A Dragonflies live for a short time.
  - B Dragonflies have large wings.
  - C Dragonflies can be dangerous.
  - D Dragonflies are special insects.

Which detail from the passage **best** supports the answer above?

- A "If you look closely, you will see net-like veins in their wings that actually help soak up the sun."
- B "You might find them around ponds, lakes, rivers, and swamps."
- C "If you make a pond or some small body of water in your yard, you might be able to invite them to your house!"
- D "Many people think that dragonflies can bite or sting, but they don't."

2. Why does the author suggest that dragonflies can be found near a body of water?
- A because water helps dragonflies avoid predators
  - B because it is easier for dragonflies to fly when they are near water
  - C because the things dragonflies need to survive can be found near water
  - D because the reader can create a small body of water to help dragonflies
3. Which paragraph describes a dragonfly's life cycle?
- A paragraph 1
  - B paragraph 2
  - C paragraph 3
  - D paragraph 4
4. Why does the author suggest that humans should **not** be afraid of dragonflies?
- A because dragonflies only live for a short amount of time
  - B because dragonflies use their big eyes to avoid humans
  - C because dragonflies have teeth that cannot bite human skin
  - D because dragonflies are very interesting insects
5. What is this passage **mostly** about?
- A why a dragonfly is an insect
  - B when a dragonfly uses its wings
  - C how a dragonfly looks and lives
  - D how a dragonfly hunts and eats

6. The author of the passage shares a lot of information about dragonflies. Based on information in the passage, explain how the author most likely feels about dragonflies.
- Be sure to include an introduction.
  - Be sure to support your response with details from the passage.
  - Be sure to provide a conclusion.

**STOP**