



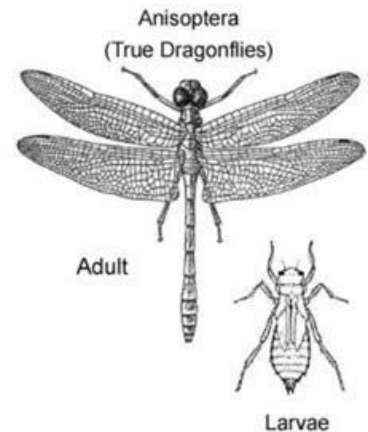
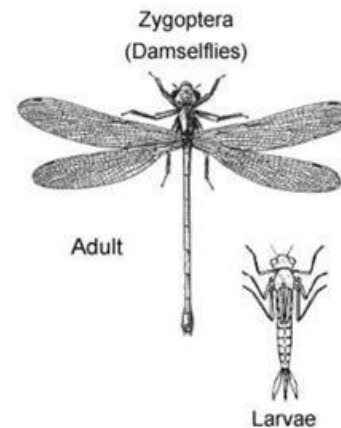
Dragonflies and Damselflies

Dragons and Damsels



Names and differences

- Anisoptera (dragonflies) comes from the Greek for “uneven” and “wings” because dragonfly hind wings tend to be broader. Their heads are round with eyes touching, and wings at right angles. Their mating is very active.
- Zygoptera (damselflies) comes from the Greek words “even” and “wings”. Their heads are rectangular, or dumbbell shaped with eyes separated. They are smaller than dragonflies and hold their wings together. Their mating is quieter.





Dragonfly

They are more than 2" long.

Hind wings are broader than fore wings and not as tapered.

Wings open at rest.

Large close together eyes.

Chunky body.

Strong, fast, agile.

Damselfly

Damselflies are 1.5"-2" long.

Fore and hind wings are the same size and tapered where they meet the body.

Wings are closed, resting against their bodies at rest.

Eyes are smaller with a gap.

They have long, thin twig-like bodies.

They are slower and weaker than dragonflies.





Dragonfly facts

One of the most primitive creatures--meganisoptera 325 million years ago

160 species in Texas

Incomplete metamorphosis> egg, naiad, adult

Gills, using bubbles of water

They need water.

Naiads are predacious--sit and wait predators.

Mating is complicated.

They propel shooting water out the rear.

Some dragonflies of Texas

Petaluridae-Grey petal tail

Aeshnidae--Green darner

Gomphidae--sulphur-tipped clubtail

Libellulidae--Widow skimmer



Odonata*

Wings together when
they're resting tells me
that's a damselfly;

Wings much broader
and spread open
dragonfly now low or
high.

* Sing to *Clementine*



You can sing this song to *This Old Man*.

Damselfly, even wings, (2 hands together)

Separated eyes see many things, (fists apart)

Wings held close and head rectangle, (hands together)

In the water nymphs swim and dangle.
(swimming motion)

Dragonfly, broad hind wings, (hands spreading)

Eyes together see many things, (fists together)

Incomplete metamorphosis and rounded head,
(hands making circle)

At right angles wings are spread! (hands perpendicular)



Larvae

Multiple molts

- Dragonfly 12-15
- Damselfly 10-12



Mask

The mask is the third mouthpart adapted for grabbing prey.



Ode to Odonata*

Odonata predatory

With the teeth so very strong,

Eyes can help us to
distinguish,

And the bodies thin and long.

*Sing to *Clementine*



Be an Odonata detective!

Can you spot a damselfly or dragonfly over the savannah or by a water feature?

You can make a dragonfly with a popsicle stick and paper wings.

And make dragonfly and damselfly pretzel twist and stick snacks!



Can you
imagineer a
dragonfly from
a popsicle stick,
muffin cup and
pompoms?



Learn about
dragonflies!

