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introduction



We may be small, but we bugs lead lives full of danger and excitement. We are here to tell you a little about what it's like to be one of us. You'll find out how we catch our prey—but avoid being eaten ourselves; how we find a mate and keep our eggs and young safe; and how we can to survive at all in a world



of giants. Our lives are full of wonders. Read on and you'll meet a swarm of locusts and the largest centipede in the world. You'll find out why a ladybug has spots, what goes on inside a termite mound, and how spiders make their webs. Come face to face with a praying mantis and have dinner with a mosquito and a bluebottle fly. But first of all, come and meet one of the most beautiful insects in the world, the blue morpho butterfly.



how does a dragonfly capture prey?

I am a dragonfly. I am a fierce hunter just like a dragon. My mom laid her eggs in this pond. When my brothers and sisters and I first hatch we are called nymphs. We live in the water for up to two years. We prey on other insects, tadpoles, and small fish until we are big enough to hunt for ourselves.

1 This is me as a nymph. I catch my prey by hunting or just by sitting still on the bottom of the stream and waiting for my prey to come by.

3 I am now ready to change into an adult dragonfly. I climb out of the water and attach myself to a plant's stem.

4 This is me pulling myself out of my old skin. My wings are all crumpled. It will take a while for them to flatten out. I am not very strong yet. This is a dangerous time in my life. I could be eaten by my enemies anytime.

5 I am now a fully grown-up dragonfly. I will soon fly away from the water and spend two or three weeks eating. I will return to the water and find a female mate. We adults only stop flying when we sleep. Whew!

2 This is my head up close. A clawed mask covers my face. When prey comes near, I grab it with my claws and pull it into my mouth.