



Hi folks! I'm Lily, the Pacific chorus frog, and I help the City of Eugene teach people about stormwater in our community. Clean water is important for all of us. Many of the chemicals we use in our yards wash to rivers in the rainy season, so be careful when you spray or spread!

Where Dragonflies Dance



Have you ever watched a dragonfly zipping around the edge of a pond or stream? Did you know that there are hundreds of species, and that they have lived on Earth for millions of years? All dragonflies need fresh, clean water for most of their life cycle.

The adult female dragonfly lays eggs in still water. The eggs develop into a swimming larval stage called nymphs. Dragonfly nymphs live underwater and eat practically anything that is smaller than they are, shedding their skin many times as they grow. This stage lasts six weeks to several years, when the

nymph leaves the water to shed one last time and emerge as a winged adult.

Adult dragonflies are great to have in your garden because they are predators, eating many times their weight in mosquitoes and other bugs each day. They use their long legs like a basket to catch and eat smaller insects as they fly.

Large swarms of dragonflies sometimes migrate along Oregon's coast. Scientists are not sure why the dragonflies travel this way, and have asked citizens to help report these swarms so that we can understand this behavior better. One thing we do know for sure is that keeping water clean—free from pesticides and other toxic chemicals—helps these beautiful insects live and grow in our community!



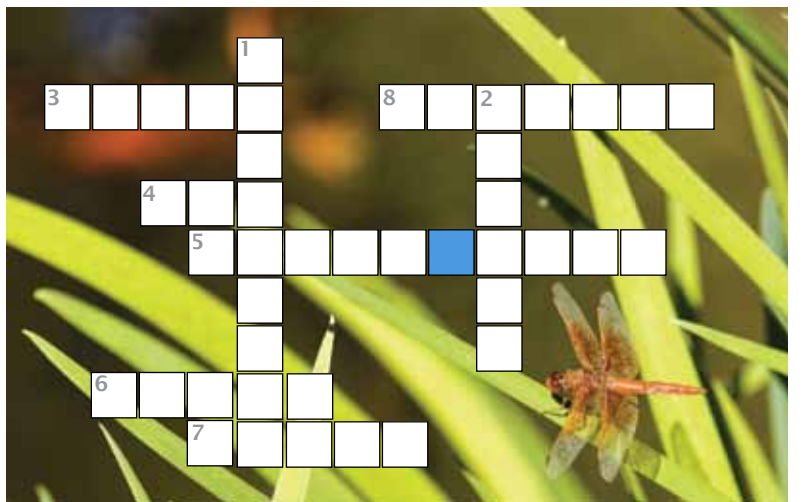
Most of a dragonfly's life is spent as a nymph in water. The photo above shows the nymph shell on a branch and the new adult dragonfly.



Dragonfly fossils (species meganeura, below) have been found measuring 30 inches across. The largest dragonfly living in the world today is 7 ½ inches across and lives in Costa Rica.



Dragonfly fossil photo by Ghedoghedo via Wikimedia Commons



Dragonfly Crossword

Down

1. Insect seen on this page
2. Large numbers of insects travel in _____.

Across

3. Eggs are laid in _____.
4. First stage of dragonfly life

5. Country of biggest modern dragonflies (2 words)
6. Egg, nymph and adult are stages of life _____.
7. Longest stage of dragonfly life
8. Imprints of giant dragonflies are found in these

Learn more about stormwater and water pollution at happyrivers.org. There you'll find articles, videos, and links to some of our favorite websites.

Answers: 1. dragonfly, 2. egg, 3. water, 4. egg, 5. Costa Rica, 6. cycle, 7. nymph, 8. fossils

Learn more from these sources:

www.eduwebs.org/bugs/dragonfly.htm

osupress.oregonstate.edu/blog/dragonfly-migration-underway

<http://www.dragonfly-site.com/dragonfly-facts.html>