**The Lifecycle of a Dragonfly – KS2/3**

**Curriculum Links**

**Science**

KS2 Year 5 Science curriculum – Living things and their habitats

* *describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird*

**SMSC**

* *Spirituality – Window moments: how often do I spend time* ***observing*** *my local environment and wonder at its beauty? Door moments: how often do I spend time* ***exploring*** *my local environment and wonder at its beauty?*

*‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come’* 2 Corinthians 5:17

**Resources -** PowerPoint (Ppt) files: ‘Dragonfly Images’ and ‘Dragonfly Sorting Cards’ (available from our website project resources section.)

**Introduction**

Don’t reveal yet that this is about a cycle. Explain that you would like to investigate the life of a dragonfly. Find out what children know about dragonflies, encourage children to use scientific language or technical vocabulary (eg: insect, abdomen, larvae etc). Have a look at the ‘Dragonfly Images’ Ppt and play, ‘Is it or isn’t it?’ Some of the images are dragonflies, some aren’t. Click on the images to find out (all of the examples can be seen in the UK).

**Main task**

1. Say that you would like pupils to have a look at the selection of images they have in front of them (cards can be created by using the ‘Dragonfly Sorting Cards’ Ppt.) Ask them to sort them our into an order. Did any group sort them into a cycle or were they linear?
2. Explore the concept of a ‘cycle’. What does this mean? Consider other words that relate to this eg: bicycle, cyclical, cyclone. These words all relate to something that continues to go round and round, repetitively.
3. Look at the correct life cycle explain each stage using the information sheet on the following page, ‘Lifecycle of a Dragonfly’.
4. Using the information, pupils can record and present the lifecycle in their science/topic books as appropriate (or through photographs of the card sorting activity etc)

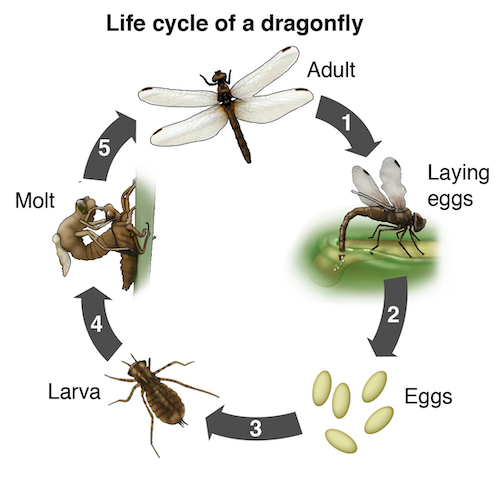
Useful links: [Identifying British dragonflies](https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/odonata/species-and-identification/)

**Plenary and reflection**

Reflect upon the ‘Circle of Life’ - refer to The Lion King song. Life has a natural cycle of creation, growth, reproduction and death. For Christians (and those of some other major world faiths) death is not necessarily the end of the cycle. Christians believe that accepting Jesus Christ as the Son of God and following his teaching leads us to an eternal life in heaven. One that we cannot explain or describe scientifically, but one those of faith have a sure belief in and live in hope of an existence without pain and suffering but full of joy.

Few creatures have as interesting a life metamorphosis and life transformation as does the dragonfly. Christians believe transformation come with Christ in their lives.

**The Life Cycle of a Dragonfly**

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**Adult**

**Laying Eggs**

**Moult**

**Eggs**

**Larva**

**Adult –** Adults live on average for about 2 weeks but can live up to eight weeks, during which time they must mate.

**Laying eggs –** Eggs arelaid (injected) into stems and leaves of plants or rotten wood close to the surface of water.

**Eggs –** Eggs hatch after two to five weeks.

**Larva –** Dragonflies spend most of their life at the larva stage, two to five years. Larvae live in water and hunt other small water creatures.

**Moult –** Larvae moult out of the water when the length of day and temperature are right. This process takes approximately one hour.

Useful links:

[Dragonfly Life Cycle](https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/odonata/life-cycle-and-biology/)

[Video of a dragonfly moulting](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMq5IY4XUkc)