



# The Dragonfly

From An Elementary Study of Insects by Leonard Haseman

The dragon-fly is an almost perfect model of the modern monoplane. Its two long wings on either side are the planes, its head the nose, its thorax the fuselage and its long projecting abdomen the tail or rudder. On wing the dragon-fly is one of the swiftest and most powerful insects. The dragon-flies are found all over the world being most abundant in the warmer regions where rainfall and bodies of water are abundant. For breeding they require water, their immature stages living under water feeding on aquatic animal life. Our present order of dragon-flies is the remains of an ancient race of insects of immense size. From fossil remains we learn that ancient dragon-flies had a wing expanse of three feet.

The dragon-fly is a beneficial insect throughout life. The young feed on mosquito wigglers and similar life in ponds and streams while the adults dart here and there over ponds, fields or lawn catching mosquitoes and other winged insects. Many look upon the dragon-fly as a dangerous stinging insect but it is entirely harmless and can be handled without the least danger. They vary greatly in size and appearance. The so-called damsel-flies form a group of dragon-flies or Odonata which rest with the wings in a vertical position and the young aquatic stages are more slender. In color markings dragon-flies include all hues of the rainbow though as a rule they do not have such extravagant colors as the butterflies.

1. This passage compares the dragonfly to:

- A. a biplane      B. a monoplane      C. a helicopter

2. In which biome are you most likely to find a dragonfly?

- A. desert      B. tundra      C. rainforest

3. Dragonflies are \_\_\_\_\_ insects.

- A. beneficial      B. dangerous