

Damselflies

Big World of Insects, Spiders & Bugs Series

Subject Areas: Science, Life Science, Biology

Synopsis: Several different species of damselflies are seen patrolling their territories. Students will be amazed at the brilliant colors of these insects, as well as their incredible flying abilities. After mating, the females are seen laying eggs in the stems of aquatic plants, under the watchful gaze of hungry frogs.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to describe the unique adaptations that allow damselflies to fly in amazing ways.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to label the six legs, head, thorax, abdomen and wings of these insects.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to describe how these insects lay eggs.

Vocabulary: Define and discuss the following key terms:

Damselfly, bulbous, quills, mayfly, prey, carnivore, aerial maneuvers, aquatic, cunning, ravenous

Pre-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) Have you ever seen any insects living in or on the water? What do these insects look like?
- 2) What adaptations do different animals (including insects) have to allow them to fly? Can you describe any unusual flying abilities?

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) As you watch the program, describe the different damselflies that are shown. What colors are the damselflies? What do these insects eat? Where do they live?
- 2) How does a damselfly protect its territory?
- 3) What adaptations does the damselfly have for hunting and catching prey? What is a carnivore?
- 4) Describe how the male damselfly attracts a female.
- 5) Describe the different methods that damselflies have for laying eggs.
- 6) How are the damselflies able to breathe underwater?
- 7) What does the male damselfly do while the female is laying eggs?

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- 8) What predators are attracted to the damselflies that are laying eggs?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Damselflies have bright colors. What do these colors communicate to other damselflies and other insects? Do you think these colors help the damselflies stand out in their environment? Is this a good method of defense?
- 2) Where are damselflies found? How many different species of damselflies are there? Research 3-5 species of damselflies found around the world. Compare and contrast the different species.
- 3) Research the life cycle of these insects. How long do the damselfly eggs stay in the plant stems? Do the larvae eat the plants? Do damselfly larvae live in the water? How long do the larvae live before changing into the adult form?
- 4) Draw a close up picture of a damselfly. Label the head, thorax, abdomen, six legs and wings. Be sure to color the insect appropriately. Also include an appropriate background for the drawing.
- 5) Create a food web that includes these insects, their food (prey) and animals (predators) that might eat them as well. Be sure to include plants and the sun in your food web.

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