

**TRACK** your hike at kidsinparks.com R and get FREE prizes!

> Thanks for joining us today!

Visit our website to find more TRACK Trail™ adventures near you!

Follow us!

@KidsInParks 0

@KidsInParks

@KidsInParksBRPF

**BLUE RIDGE** PARKWA Kids in Parks is a program of the FOUNDATION Legends tell of a fierce flying

creature with colorful plates of armor on its body. It hunts with an endless appetite! Let's find it, TRACK!

Hey, this dragon looks a lot like you, KIP!

Use this brochure as a guide on your quest to discover the incredible world of dragonflies.

# Dazzling Dragonflies

There are over 300 species of dragonflies in the United States. They can be found soaring and swooping over ponds, rivers, and swamps across the country.

## A Closer Look

Eves Can guickly scan 360 degrees for prey.

Antennae Work like anemometers. measuring wind speed

and direction.

Jaws Strong jaws and sharp teeth secure and cut through prey.

Cool Fact! Dragonflies belong to the order **Odanata**, from the Greek word for 'tooth'.

### Perfect Predators

A dragonfly's eyes, wings, and brain work together to make it one of the best hunters in the animal world. Dragonflies catch 95% of the prey they chase. A lion only catches about 15% of the prey they chase. Can you find some of the dragonfly's favorite snacks?

mosquito butterfly

moth

fly

#### Flight Path

Thorax

Head

Eyes, antennae,

mouth, and brain.

Head

Unique wings allow dragonflies to fly in any direction at any time. Focus on one dragonfly and draw its flight path below.

#### Prehistoric Pilots

Dragonflies have existed for about 300 million years. That's before the dinosaurs! Fossils show dragonflies with wingspans of over two feet. What is the biggest dragonfly you can find? Use this ruler to estimate the size.



#### Many Shapes and Colors

Dragonflies come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Color is one of the best ways to identify a dragonfly. Can you find these colored dragonflies?





Like all insects, dragonflies have three main body parts. Find these parts on a dragonfly. Use the illustration above as a guide. Thorax Powerful muscles

control wings and legs.

Insect Anatomy

Abdomen

Abdomen Has 10 segments on all dragonflies.