

# Beloved species from Canada's wetlands

## DRAGONFLY

*Anisoptera*

- + Can fly at speeds of more than 50 kilometres per hour.
- + Position their legs in a scoop or basket shape to catch prey like mosquitoes mid-flight—then bite it to lock it in place until they are ready to eat.
- + The dragonhunter, one of the largest species of dragonfly, will catch and eat other dragonflies—starting with the head.
- + Were one of the first insects, dating back to about 300 million years ago. Early dragonflies were larger, with wingspans up to nearly a metre wide.
- + Live for up to several years in the water in nymph stage, then emerge from the water and begin to fly within days.
- + May have the best colour vision of any living creature. Researchers believe they can see ultraviolet and may be able to recognize polarized light reflecting from water.
- + Have a nearly 360-degree range of vision, thanks to their two compound eyes that are made up of thousands of smaller eyes.

