

Five Magical Facts About Dragonflies



1. They're older than dinosaurs.

Dragonflies have been flying for over **300 million years** — long before the first dinosaur hatched! Their ancient ancestors had wingspans up to 70 cm — the size of a hawk.

2. They can fly in six directions — including backwards.

Dragonflies are the **aerobic champions** of the insect world. They can hover like helicopters, dart sideways, and even zip backwards — no other insect can match their agility.

3. Most of their life is spent underwater.

A dragonfly lives up to **five years as a larva** beneath the surface, hunting with extendable “alien” jaws that shoot out faster than you can blink. The adult we see only lives for a few months!

4. They see the world in colours we can't imagine.

Dragonflies have around **30,000 lenses in each eye** and can see ultraviolet and polarised light — a kaleidoscope invisible to humans.

5. They help keep our ponds healthy.

By eating mosquito larvae and midges, dragonflies act as **natural pest controllers**, keeping freshwater ecosystems in balance.

The real magic of dragonflies is that they show how ancient life still dances in our modern world.



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