Changes

Adult dragonflies are beautiful, colorful, long-bodied insects. But an adult dragonfly looks nothing like it did when it was young. That’s because dragonflies go through many stages of life, and they change a lot at each one.

A dragonfly begins its life as a nymph. Nymphs hatch from eggs that are laid in water by adult dragonflies. A nymph looks like a worm and sheds its skin often. It lives underwater for one to three years. Then it crawls out of the water for good. That’s because it has become an adult! Did you know that most of a dragonfly’s life is spent as a nymph? Dragonflies live as adults for only a short time.

An adult dragonfly has two pairs of see-through wings. It can fly as soon as its wings are dry. Dragonflies can fly forward and backwards. They can also hover, or stay in one place in the air, for about a minute at a time. They live near ponds, streams, rivers, and lakes.

A dragonfly has large compound eyes at the top of its head. Why is it impossible to sneak up on a dragonfly? It can see below, above, behind, and even sideways! The dragonfly’s eyes and wings help it capture insects in the air. Dragonflies eat wasps, mosquitoes, ants, bees, flies, and other types of bugs.

How fast do you think dragonflies can fly? They can zip around at speeds as fast as thirty-five miles an hour! And do you know how far they can fly? Dragonflies have been found on ships 200 miles out to sea!
Answer the questions. You may reread parts of the passage to help you.

1. What is the first stage of a dragonfly’s life?
   - adult
   - bee
   - nymph
   - worm

2. When does a dragonfly crawl out of the water?
   - when it becomes a nymph
   - when it becomes an adult
   - when its wings are dry
   - when it is an egg

3. Which phrase in the sentence below defines the word *hover* for the reader?
   They can also hover, or stay in one place in the air, for about a minute at a time.
   - at a time
   - they can also
   - stay in one place
   - for about a minute

4. Why is it almost impossible to sneak up on a dragonfly?
   - It moves very quickly.
   - It can see all around it.
   - It can hear everything.
   - It is very tiny.

5. List three features of an adult dragonfly. Use details from the passage to support your answer. Write your response on another sheet of paper.