

*This learning resource was created by LEEDS 2023 Year of Culture as part of The Wild Escape project, in partnership with Art Fund and Leeds Museums and Galleries*

## The Wild Escape: Dragonfly Learning Resource

**Who this resource is for: KS2 learners**

**What materials you'll need:**

- Web resources and facts about dragonflies
- Paper and pencils
- Card, craft materials, fabric scraps or tissue paper
- Images of dragonflies, ponds and other insects for reference

**Aims & objectives:**

The activities in this resource are designed to take 2-3 hours but can be adapted depending on your group and setting.

Learners will:

- Explore a native UK creature
- Learn about its natural habitat, ecosystem and threats to its environment
- Use this knowledge to create an artistic response which can be entered into The Wild Escape online exhibition.

**Curriculum links:**

*Art & Design: to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials [for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay]*

*Biology: explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.*

**Useful links:**

[Mylearning – What is a Minibeast?](#)

[Dragonflies factsheet](#)

[Making a pond factsheet](#)

**Activities:**

1. Using the information on the Mylearning website, introduce learners to the definition of an insect, and introduce the three parts of an insect: head, thorax and abdomen, and the features of an insect, which is that they have six legs, antennae, and many have wings.
2. Show a picture of a dragonfly and ask learners to label all of the parts you have introduced. This could be done as a whole class, with stickers, on a whiteboard, or individually on paper.
3. Extend this to introduce the terms of invertebrates, arachnids etc – using the information on the Mylearning website to teach learners about classifications of



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creatures, which you could connect to your prior learning. Learners could make a poster, leaflet or presentation about what they have learnt.

4. Introducing ponds as habitats: give learners a piece of paper and ask them to draw a garden pond or a pond in a park. Refer to a pond in your local area if this is helpful for the learners to give them context. Alternatively, you could do this with blue paper or a large piece of material and do this as a class. Now ask them to think about who would live in or around the pond. Encourage learners to think about the different birds, amphibians or animals who need the pond to live. Answers may include: fish, birds, flies, frogs, and snails. Show or draw pictures to help learners.
5. Now ask learners what would happen if the pond disappeared – where would all the creatures go? Use this to explain that some habitats are disappearing, and some creatures are in danger.
6. Creative response: using a template, craft materials, or pencils or paint, ask learners to create a dragonfly. Dragonflies are around 8cm long, so learners can make these life size, or bigger! The beautiful lacy wings could be created with tracing paper, lace, scrap materials, tissue paper, or sequin mesh.
7. Learners could then add their dragonfly creations into their pond design, to show the insects in their natural habitats!

