



Dear Educator,

This file offers views of some of the worksheets in our “**Fireflies**” thematic unit. The cover for an eWorkbook is shown followed by the preview pages.

The “**Fireflies**” unit offers **15 pages**.

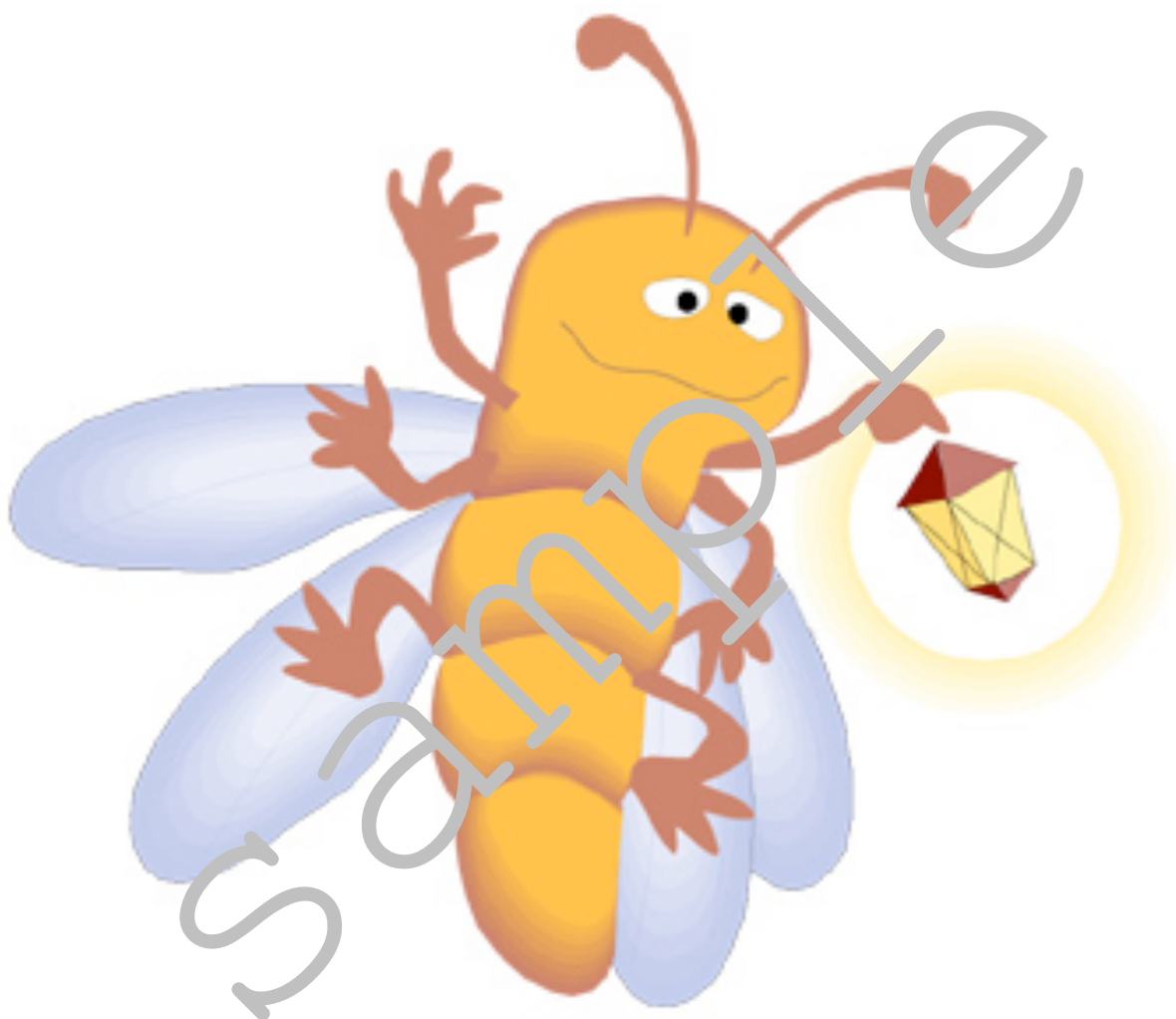
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# Fireflies



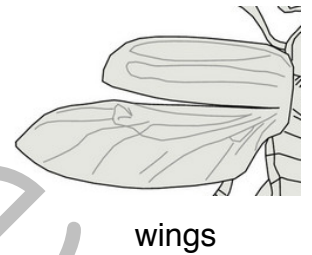
# Fireflies



Fireflies are not really flies. They are beetles. They are one of the largest order of insects. There are over two thousand kinds of fireflies found in the world.

Fireflies are related to the ladybug, water beetle, and May beetle. Fireflies can be found on all the continents except Antarctica.

Female fireflies either have very short wings or no wings at all. Male fireflies have two pairs of wings. The first pair makes a cover over the second pair. The wings that form a cover are called elytra or sheath wings. The second pair of wings are used for flying.



Fill in the missing words. Write them on the line.  
Read the paragraphs above for the answers.

1. The second set of wings are used for \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Male fireflies have \_\_\_\_\_ pairs of wings.
3. Fireflies are not flies but are \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Fireflies can be found on all continents except \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. There are over two \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of the fireflies.

# Fireflies

The eggs turn into a wormlike **larvae**. This is the **second stage** of metamorphosis. They spend more time in the larvae stage than any other stage. Larvae live on land, in burrows, and under water. They spend autumn and winter underwater.



When spring arrives they are ready for the third stage of metamorphosis. This takes place on land, usually in the soft, moist side of a river or stream bank.

The larvae burrow into the soft earth. They secrete a liquid that forms a wall or chamber. It is waterproof.



The **third stage** of metamorphosis is the **pupal** stage. They rest quietly in the darkness of the earth. Their lanterns glow softly. Forty days later the firefly begins to stir. This is the **fourth stage** when they turn into **adult fireflies**.

Some fireflies are called glow worms or lightning bugs. A special characteristic of the firefly is its ability to produce light. About two-thirds of all adult fireflies produce light. The young larvae of all fireflies, and some of the eggs produce light.

Draw a picture of fireflies glowing outside at night.



Write the names of the 4 stages of metamorphosis on the lines below.

A rectangular box with an orange border containing four horizontal lines for writing the names of the four stages of metamorphosis.

# Fireflies

## CRISS CROSS

Can you fit these words into the criss cross?  
Use a pencil so you can erase if you need to.

beetles  
lantern

fun  
wings

eggs  
larvae

head  
thorax

