



# FIREFLIES

## LESSON PLAN

Week at a Glance:

Day One: What are  
Fireflies?

Day Two: Backyard  
Habitats

Day Three: Light  
Communication

Day Four: Life Cycle

Day Five: Fireflies in  
Summer



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## LESSON PLAN

Day One: What are fireflies?

Objective: The students will be able to identify characteristics of fireflies.



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## LESSON PLAN: DAY ONE

### Introduction (5 minutes):

\*Teacher Says: This week we are learning all about a very interesting insect - fireflies! Have you ever seen little flashes of light outside at night or tiny lights twinkling in the grass in your backyard in the summer? Those may be fireflies! Fireflies are insects, or a type of beetle, that actually make their own light. Most fireflies are black, brown, or dark grey with some yellow, orange or red markings. They have six legs, two antennae, two pairs of wings, a long, narrow body & very large eyes to see in the dark.

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## Lesson (20 minutes):

\*The teacher will play the video, "Fireflies: Nature's Baffling Blinkers" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7RIIqjB2r8>

\*After the video, the teacher will guide the students in completing the "Fireflies can, have, are" graphic organizer.

\*The teacher will also guide the students in writing the definition for "firefly" in the "Vocabulary Square" attached below.

## Independent Work (10 minutes)

\*The students will independently write a sentence and draw a picture of a firefly in the "Vocabulary Square" activity sheet.

## Closing (5 minutes)

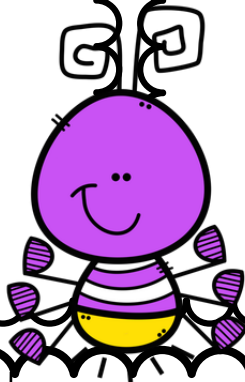
\*With a partner, the students will share their sentence and picture from the "Vocabulary Square".

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f i r e f l y

can

are



have

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## VOCABULARY SQUARE

Word:

firefly

Definition:

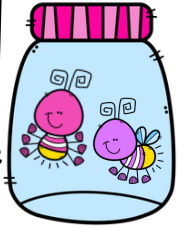
Sentence:

Picture:



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## LESSON PLAN



Day Two: Backyard Habitats

Objective: The students will be able to define "habitat" and describe firefly habitats.

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## LESSON PLAN: DAY TWO

### Introduction (5 minutes):

\*Teacher Says: Have you ever seen a firefly? Where was it? Fireflies live in fields, meadows, forests, near ponds, streams & wetlands, gardens, and even your own backyard! They like areas that are warm, moist and filled with plants or grasses. A habitat is where a firefly lives. Fireflies need habitats to provide food, shelter & protection, and places to lay their eggs.

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## Lesson (15 minutes):

\*The teacher will read the book, "Fireflies in the Night: A Colorfully Illustrated Science Picture Book About Firefly Biology for Kids". Questions to ask during/after reading - What kind of habitat(s) did you notice in the book? Where do fireflies live? What do they need in their habitat to survive?

\*The teacher will guide the students in completing the "Fact or Fiction" activity sheet attached below. The students will color in the true statements in green and the false statements in red.

## Independent Work (10 minutes)

\*The students will complete the "Habitat Unscramble" attached below. Each word is associated with where fireflies live!

## Closing (5 minutes)

\*The teacher will give each student a sticky note or index card. They will write three things that fireflies need in their habitat to survive.

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## FACT OR FICTION?

Directions: Color the facts in green. Color statements that are fiction in red.

Fireflies do not live near water.

You mainly see fireflies at night.

Fireflies only live in oceans.

Fireflies live near grass, plants & trees.

Fireflies can live in backyards, gardens, farms and fields.

Fireflies live in nests.

You only see fireflies during the day.

Fireflies like tall grass & leaf litter.

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## HABITAT UNSCRAMBLE

Directions: Unscramble each word associated with a firefly habitat.

GRSSA

FDIELS

GDARNES

BKACYDAR

FROSETS

WTAER

PNODS



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## LESSON PLAN



Day Three: Light Communication  
Objective: The students will be able to describe how fireflies communicate using light.

## LESSON PLAN: DAY THREE

### Introduction (5 minutes):

\*Teacher Says: What does it mean to communicate? That's right - to communicate means to share information! We usually think of communicating through just talking, but what other ways can you think of that people or animals communicate? Fireflies "talk" to each other in a very unique, special way - by flashing their lights! They flash their lights to find a mate, to recognize other fireflies of the same species and to warn predators that they may not taste good!

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## Lesson (15 minutes):

\*The students will watch the video, "Fireflies" from the Dr. Binocs Show - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ts7JIS3M2S4>

\*The students will play a game called "Flashlight Flash Codes". Each student will get a mini flashlight. Create flash patterns (1 flash=hello 2 flashes=yes. 3 flashes=no , etc.) Students will communicate only using the light flashes.

## Independent Work (10 minutes)

\*Using the attached, "Light Communication" graphic organizer, the students in writing down four facts about firefly light communication .

## Closing (5 minutes)

\*The whole group will review the facts together and various students will share what they recorded.

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## LIGHT COMMUNICATION

Directions: In the circles below, write down four facts about firefly light communication.

The worksheet is designed for a writing activity. It features a central illustration of a blue firefly with a striped abdomen and four smaller, colorful fireflies (purple, orange, green, and pink) around it. The firefly is surrounded by four large, empty circles with scalloped edges, intended for students to write facts. The entire page is framed by a decorative black border with a repeating pattern.

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## LESSON PLAN



Day Four: Life Cycle of a Firefly

Objective: The students will be able to describe the stages of the life cycle of a firefly.

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## LESSON PLAN: DAY FOUR

### Introduction (5 minutes):

\*Teacher Says: Today, we will explore more about the life cycle of a firefly. What is a life cycle? A life cycle is the stages that animals or living things go through as they grow. Fireflies start off as eggs. Female fireflies lay eggs in leaf litter or soil. After they hatch, they are larva. Larva are young fireflies that are often called glowworms. The larva forms a pupa. Inside the pupa, the firefly changes in to an adult (kind of like butterflies). The adult firefly emerges with wings!

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## Lesson (15 minutes):

\*The teacher will read the book, "Light in the Sky, Firefly" that goes through each stage of a firefly life cycle. Questions to ask during/after reading - What different stages did you notice the firefly went through as it grows? Where do fireflies lay eggs? What does a firefly start out as? What do larva look like? What stage comes after the larva stage?

\*After the video, the students will complete the "Firefly Life Cycle" activity sheet attached below. The teacher will guide the students in describing & identifying each stage.

## Independent Work (10 minutes)

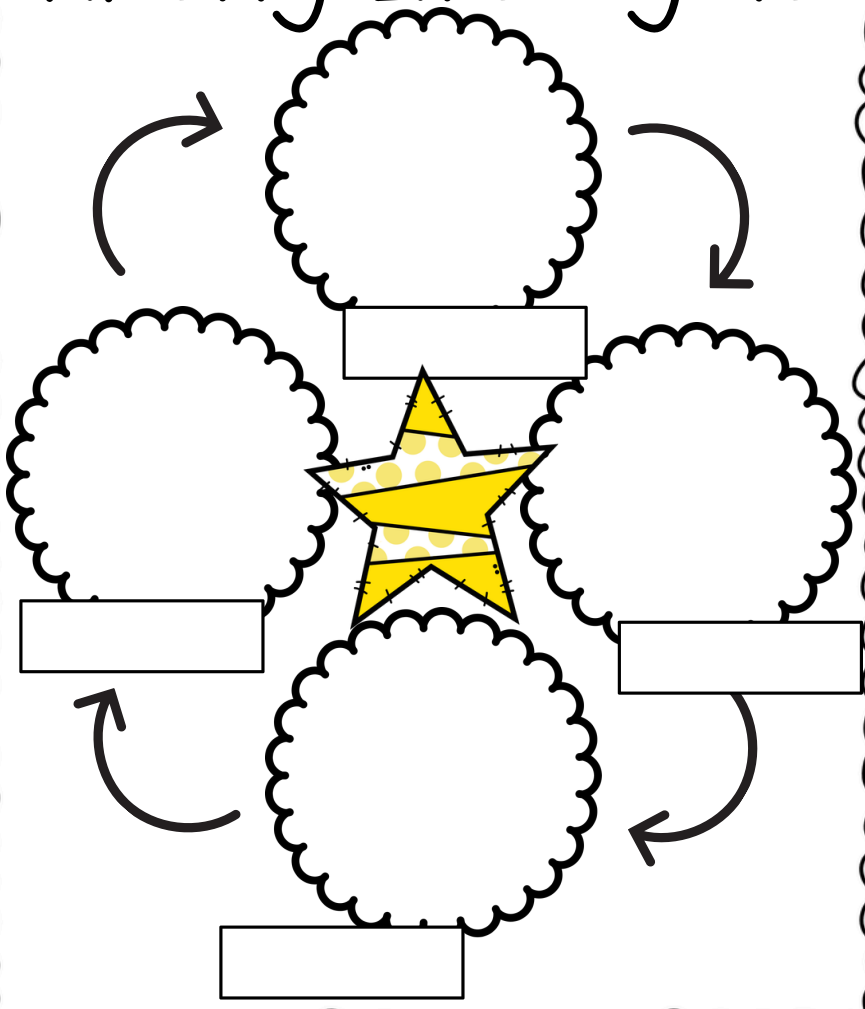
\*The students will complete the "Firefly Quick Check" attached below.

## Closing (5 minutes)

\*The students will review the quick check together as a class!

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## Firefly Life Cycle



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## FIREFLY QUICK CHECK

1. Where do fireflies lay eggs?

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2. What is metamorphosis?

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3. What are the stages of the firefly life cycle?

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# FIREFLIES

## LESSON PLAN



Day Five: Fireflies in Summer

Objective: The students will be able to explain why fireflies are more active in the summer months.



## LESSON PLAN: DAY FIVE

Introduction (5 minutes):

\*Teacher Says: What time of year do you mainly see fireflies? That's right - summer! Fireflies like warm weather and are mainly active in the summer months. Many adult fireflies emerge after their metamorphosis in the late spring and summer. Summer evenings are also dark enough for their flashing lights to be seen. The best time to see fireflies is at dusk or after sunset on warm, humid nights near tall, grass, trees or water. Why do you think there are more in the summer than winter?

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## Lesson (15 minutes):

\*The teacher will watch the video, "Fireflies Glowing in Sync to Attract Mates" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BOjTMkyfIA>

\*Discussion after the video: What do fireflies do in the summer? What do they do at night? Why do they emerge in the summer/late spring? Why do they flash their lights? How does warm weather help fireflies?

## Independent Work (10 minutes)

\*The students will draw a picture and write a 4-5 sentence paragraph about why fireflies are most active in the summer using the attached template.

## Closing (5 minutes)

\*The students will share their writing pieces with the class or in groups!

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A Firefly Summer



Four sets of horizontal dashed lines for writing, each set consisting of a solid top line and a dashed middle line, located in the lower half of the page.