

DRAGONFLY CRAFT

Materials:

- Crayons or markers
- Colored tissue paper
- Clothespins
- Chenille stems
- Dragonfly Life Cycle Poster

Background:

The Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources is a department of the local government. The water department ensures that residents of Gwinnett County have clean water provided to their homes, as well as businesses, parks, and much more. Five water treatment factories are spread throughout the county, working 24/7 to clean and send out water. All of Gwinnett County's drinking water comes from Lake Lanier. 70 million gallons are taken from the lake each day, and in about two days it comes out of your faucet, shower, or hose. However, it doesn't end there. The water department also collects the water that goes down your drains in your sink, shower, and toilet. That used water goes back to wastewater treatment factories where it is cleaned again before being sent back to Lake Lanier. By using Lake Lanier as our reservoir and recycling used water, the Department of Water Resources helps conserve this natural resource and protect our environment, while providing quality, clean water to residents.

At Gwinnett County's Department of Water Resources, scientists check on the quality of water in our area. Teams go out to a stream or river, observe their surroundings and take samples of the water. Back at the lab, other scientists look at these samples under microscopes to decide if the water is clean or polluted.

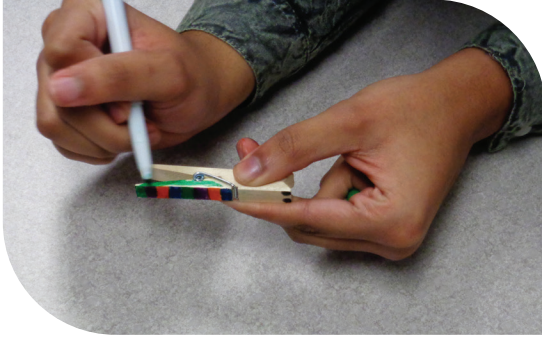
Why dragonflies are important:

Scientists at the lab look for many different things under their microscope. One of those are macroinvertebrates; specifically those in the early stages of life that are living in the water. A dragonfly is a macroinvertebrate. Dragonflies hatch from their eggs underwater, and are called nymphs. They live in the water for a while before the molt and become an adult. When they are in the water as nymphs they are telling us about that water. Dragonflies are very sensitive to pollution, so if the water is polluted dragonflies would not survive and we wouldn't find any. However, if the water is clean, the dragonfly nymphs will be found in the water.

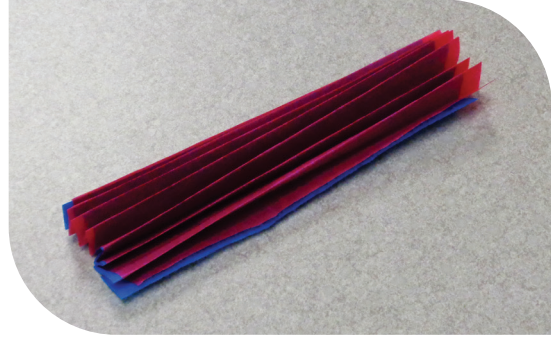


Activity:

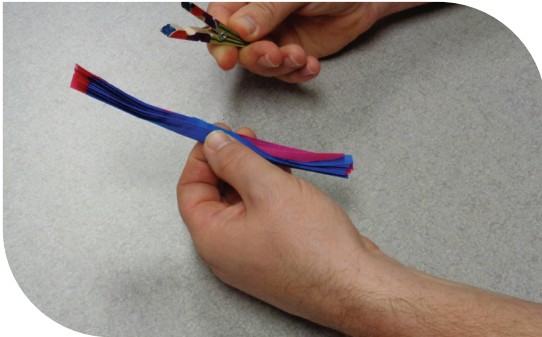
1. Decorate a clothespin
(this will be the body)



2. Fan fold tissue paper



3. Clip tissue paper into clothespin
and spread wings out



4. Attach chenille stems
(twist & bend into legs)

