

**No
Backbone!**
The World of Invertebrates

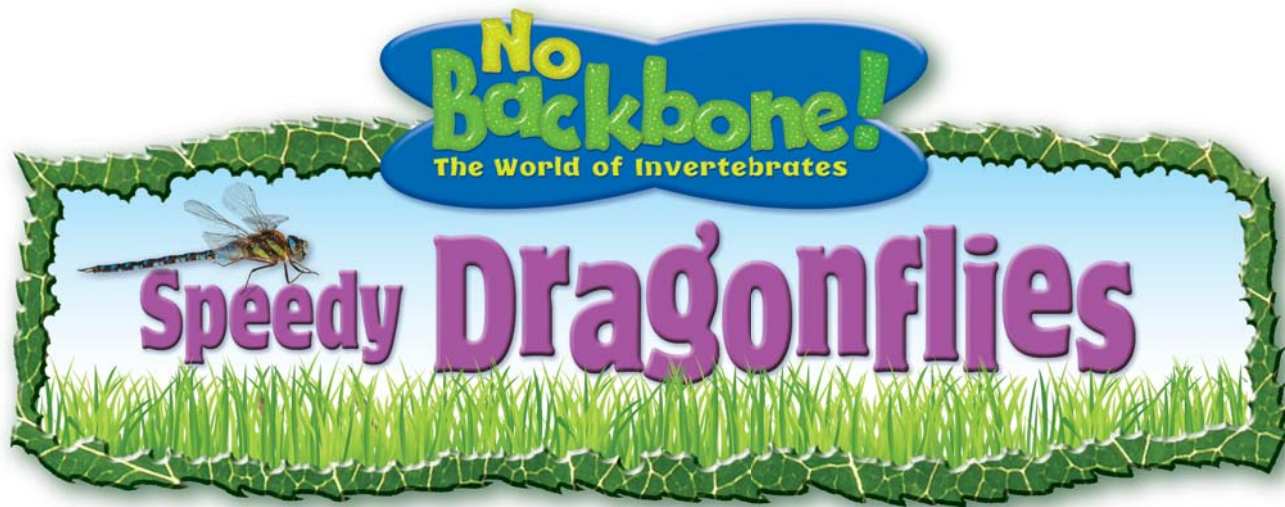


Speedy Dragonflies



by
Molly Smith

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by Molly Smith

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Dazzling Dragons


Dragonflies are large **insects** with long, thin bodies and two pairs of wings.

People call them dragonflies because they look like flying dragons.

There are about 3,000 different kinds of dragonflies.

Their bodies can be bright colors such as emerald green, ruby red, or shiny blue.





Like all insects, dragonflies have a hard covering called an exoskeleton. The exoskeleton protects the soft inner parts of an insect's body.

Built for Speed

The dragonfly is one of the fastest fliers in the insect world.

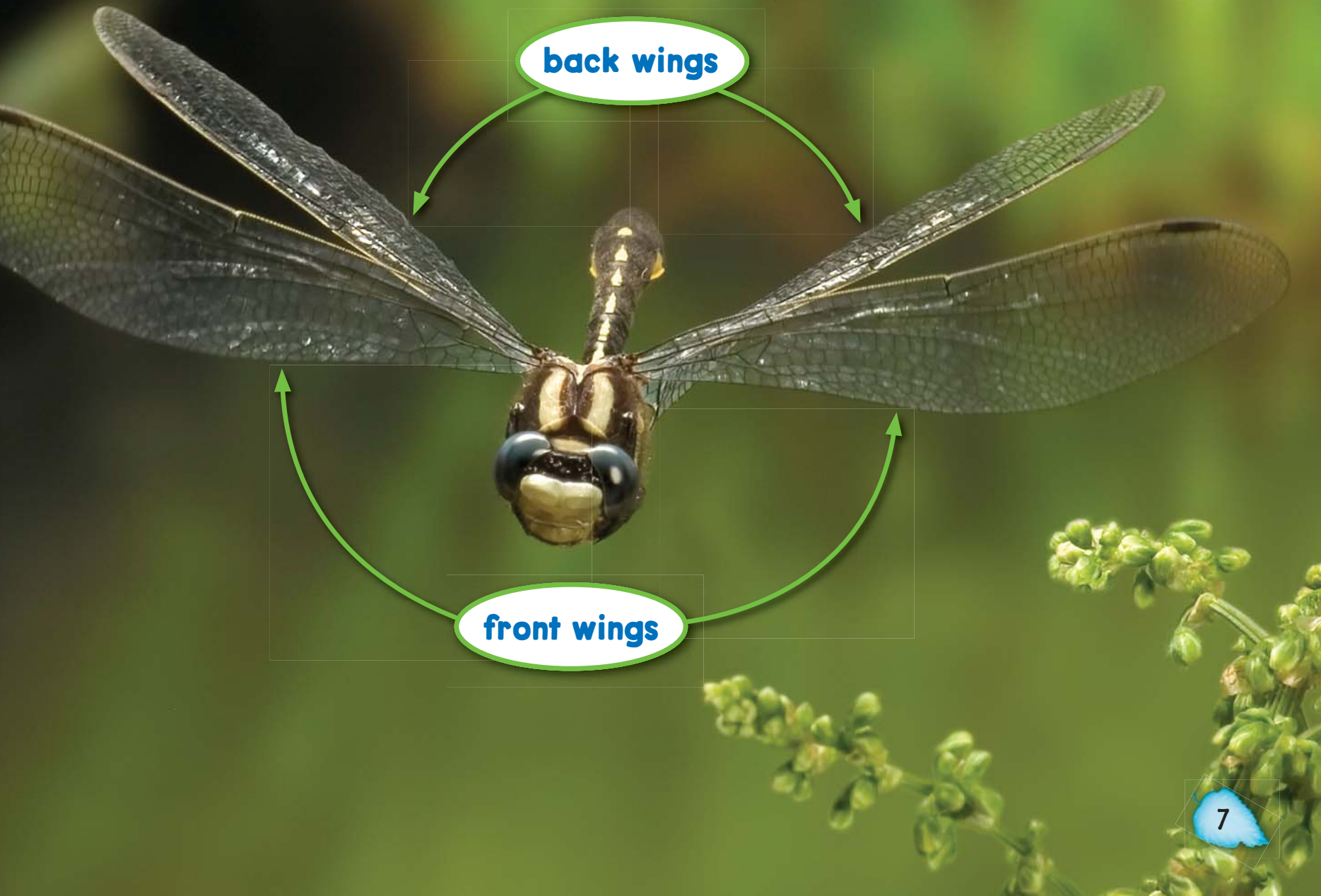
Its front pair of wings can move separately from the back pair.

By moving its wings in different ways, a dragonfly can fly forward or backward.

It can also twist and turn or even stay in the air in one place like a helicopter.



A dragonfly can fly as fast as 35 miles per hour (56 kph). That's faster than a person can run.



back wings

front wings



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Learn More Online

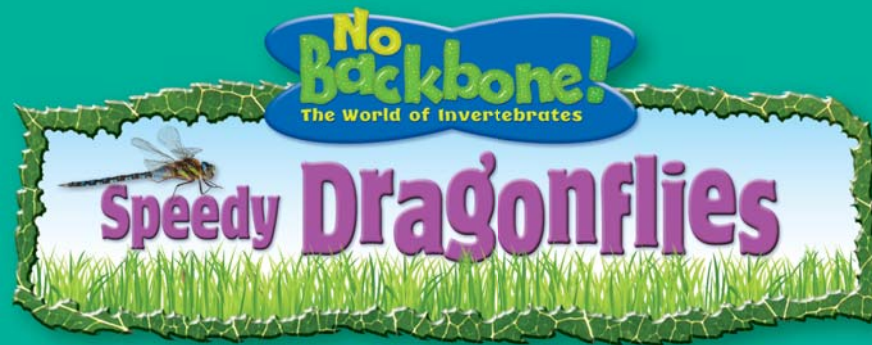
To learn more about dragonflies, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/NoBackbone-Insects

About the Author

Molly Smith has written many nonfiction books and textbooks for children. She lives with her husband and daughter in Norwalk, Connecticut, where she watches dragonflies dart, dance, and hover in her yard.



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It isn't easy for birds and other animals to catch a dragonfly for dinner. This speedy insect can fly as fast as 35 miles per hour (56 kph). Look inside to discover more fascinating facts about this fast-flying creature.

Beautiful Butterflies

Bloodthirsty Mosquitoes

Deadly Praying Mantises

Helpful Ladybugs

Hidden Walkingsticks

Hungry Cockroaches

Killer Bees

Leaping Grasshoppers

Smelly Stink Bugs

Speedy Dragonflies

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