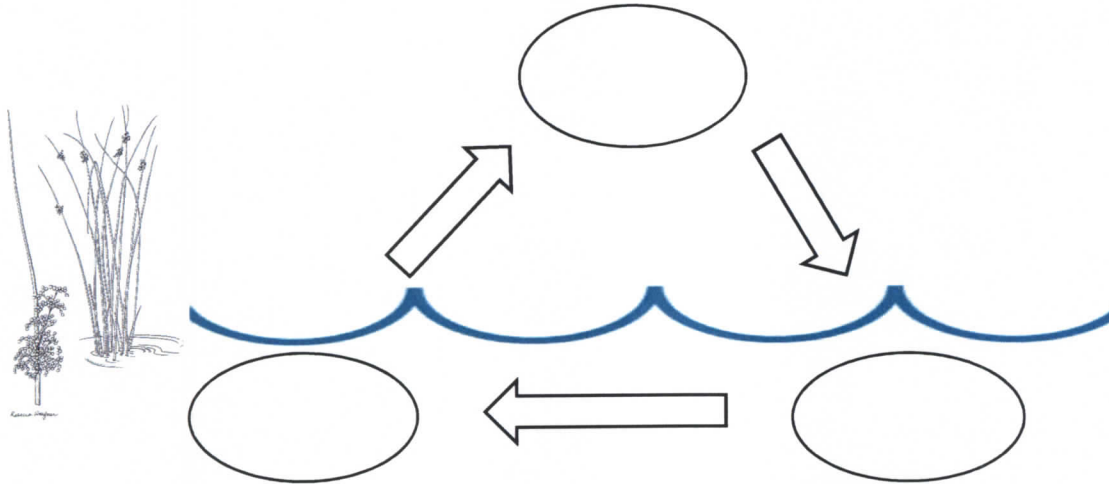


Today we are on the lookout for mini dragons... dragonflies! There are over 3,600 dragonfly species on the planet. Dragonflies have been around for more than 300 million years, and used to be much bigger, up to two and a half feet! They are usually found by lakes, ponds and streams, which is why we are going to be looking for dragonflies and their close relatives, the damselflies by Hosterman Lake today. Dragonflies need to live by water because they have a very special life cycle. Fill in the diagram below with the stages of the life cycle. Keep an eye out for exuvia (the shed exoskeleton of dragonflies) left behind when they metamorphose.



As we look for dragonflies, be on the lookout for some of these key behaviors and traits which will help you distinguish a dragonfly from a damselfly. If both dragonflies and damselflies have the behavior listed, feel free to check both boxes.

Characteristic or behavior	Dragonfly	Damselfly
Perches on tall grass or vegetation		
Hunts for flying insects like mosquitos		
Hovers over the water		
Lands and holds wings straight out to the side		
Lands and folds wings over their back		
Larvae are long and slender with three feather gills at their rear end		
Larvae have long legs and a stocky body, look like aliens		

Use this space to keep a list of the species names of the dragonflies and damselflies you see today!

Dragonfly scavenger hunt

Locate the following and place a check mark in the box corresponding to whether it was a dragonfly or a damselfly. If you are not sure, check unsure and ask for assistance!

	Damselfly	Dragonfly	Unsure
Colors of the rainbow			
Red			
Orange			
Yellow			
Green			
Bright Blue			
Light blue			
Purple			
Adult characteristics			
Stripes on wings			
Spots on wings			
Stripes on body			
Larval characteristics			
Larval jet propulsion			
An exoskeleton			
Hinged mouthparts of larvae			
Behaviors			
Pair flying in tandem			
A pair in the wheel position			
Female ovipositing on the water			
Male mate guarding			