



Fireflies - aka lightning bugs or glow-worms



They live in forest, fields or margins between them, always near water



Eggs are laid in moist soil, eggs & larva glow too



Fireflies are a beetle



Fireflies love long grass and leaf litter



Larvae can live up to 2 years, they are carnivores



Family is Lampyridae from lampien, to shine



Fireflies are believed to be carnivorous (more research needed!)



Fireflies undergo complete metamorphosis



2,000+ described species world-wide



Fireflies use bioluminescence to communicate



Adults live about a month, they may not eat at all



170+ described species N. America



Firefly light is cold - they produce no heat



Fireflies are being used in medical & scientific research

More information and activities

Facts about fireflies

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/group/fireflies/>

Online Guide to fireflies

<https://www.firefly.org/types-of-fireflies.html>

Print Guides

Fireflies, Glow-worms, and Lightning Bugs, Lynn Faust

Silent Sparks, Sara Lewis

Fireflies Book: Fun Facts About the Fireflies You Loved as a Kid, Brett Ortler

Some videos about fireflies

[Discover Life in America: Smokies Fireflies](#)

[National Geographic: Mexican Fireflies](#)

[Deep Look: So ... some dragonflies eat other dragonflies](#)

Citizen Science Opportunities

[Firefly Watch](#)

Firefly Crafts & Activities

<https://buggyandbuddy.com/firefly-crafts-kids>

<https://www.teachwithme.com/blogs/getting-to-the-core/item/155-firefly-activities>

Firefly Books

<https://tinyurl.com/y8b6bksc>

Did you know?

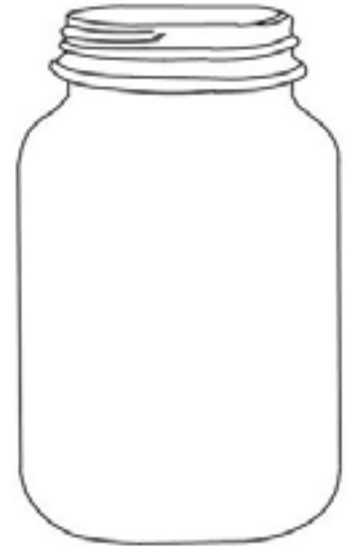
South Carolina has synchronous fireflies in old growth hardwood bottom lands, including the [Congaree National Forest](#)

Looking for fireflies can be as easy as sitting in your back garden, a local park or greenspace. Turn out the lights if you can and enjoy the display.



How to catch fireflies

- 1) Find a safe area - remember fireflies like long grass, and are often near water.
- 2) Bring along a butterfly net and mason jar with holes punched in the top and moist paper towel in it.
- 3) Gently sweep the net, when you catch a bug try and put it in the jar without touching it.
- 4) After observing them, release them in the same area you collected them. Be very gentle!



Make a sketch of the fireflies you find - can you identify the species? Males have larger lanterns (2 body segments rather than part of one or two segments).



Firefly larva
Unknown species

Gardening for Fireflies

- 1) Let your grass grow
- 2) Stop using pesticides
- 3) Leave leaf litter
- 4) Grow plants of all different heights
- 5) Grow plants for nectar and pollen
- 6) Add a water feature
- 7) Turn off lights
- 8) Plant native pines
- 9) Have a log/brush pile
- 10) Attract snails and slugs

Photinus pyralis

Common eastern or big dipper firefly
Most common firefly in N. America, average size 1/2 in

The flash pattern of this firefly is a "J" shape, repeated every 4 seconds

