A firefly is an insect, but it is not a fly. It is a beetle.

Standards Link: Life Science: Students know animals have structures that serve different functions in survival.

What is a firefly?

A firefly is an insect, but it is not a fly. It is a beetle.

Beetles have two pairs of wings. The front pair is stiff and protects the soft back wings, which are used for flying.

How does a firefly glow?

Fireflies need four things to glow. Three of those are chemicals it has in its body. Circle every third letter to discover the fourth thing it needs to glow.

PYOJEXTRYSAGFWEYBN
Why do fireflies blink their lights on and off?

An adult firefly can make its light blink on and off. Each species or kind of firefly has its own blinking pattern. Males and females use their flashes to find mates from the same species.

Some species flash short, quick flashes. Others stay lit longer. Others have longer dark times between flashes.

The male flies around flashing his light. The female stays near the ground and flashes “answers” to the male’s flashing messages as he flies above her.

Fireflies also use their flashing lights to scare off predators and to warn other fireflies of danger.

How do fireflies breathe?

People use their lungs to get oxygen from the air. A firefly has small holes on its abdomen that let in oxygen.

Quick Investigation:

Use a light stick, often found with sporting goods, to demonstrate how chemicals can mix together to create light without giving off any heat.

Firefly Life Cycle

A firefly lights up the world in two of its four parts or stages of its life cycle.

Like all beetles, fireflies have four stages or parts to their lives. These are egg, larvae, pupa, and adult.
Standards Link: Language Arts/Grammar: Use conventions of spelling; identify plural and singular nouns.

More Than One Spells Confusion
One firefly is spelled f-i-r-e-f-l-y. More than one is spelled f-i-r-e-f-l-i-e-s. To make firefly plural you change the y to i and add es. Look through the newspaper for five nouns that end in y. Change each from singular to plural. Then, look for five plural nouns, and change them to singular nouns.

Standards Link: Language Arts/Grammar: Use conventions of spelling; identify plural and singular nouns.
The firefly’s abdomen glowed a bright green.

One meaning of the noun abdomen means the rear part of an insect’s body.

Try to use the word abdomen in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

**VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

**ABDOMEN**

The firefly’s abdomen glowed a bright green.

**What goes SNAP, CRACKLE, POP?**

ANSWER: A firefly with a short circuit.
An alliteration is a series of words that start with the same letter. Can you come up with one or more alliterations?

Adjective Detective

Practice using descriptive words in stories to add color. Clip five adjectives from the newspaper that could describe a mystery. Use these words to write a story about a detective solving a mystery. Be creative!

Standards Links: Grammar: Use adjectives in written compositions; Writing: Use a variety of forms in writing.
Kid Scoop Jumbo Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally. Then see how many of these words you can find in today’s newspaper.

FIREFLIES
BEETLES
GLOW
LIGHTS
FLASHES
ABDOMEN
WINGS
SCARE
INSECT
LOOK
HURT
MALE
FOUR
HOLES
HEAT

Page 1
How does a firefly glow?
Oxygen

Page 2

Page 3
Fireflies Around the World
Fireflies can be found on every continent except Antarctica. About 2,000 species are known to scientists, and probably many more await discovery.

In Japan, there is a myth that fireflies are the tears of the Moon Princess. One Native American legend says fireflies created fire. In ancient times in Mexico, a firefly was considered the Queen of the Stars.

In Malaysia there is a nature reserve for fireflies. Many villages in Japan hold firefly festivals.

In Asia, one kind of firefly gathers with others of its species in a tree. They start to blink together until the entire tree is blinking on and off at the same time.

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Firefly Code
Lightning bugs

Page 6

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