

Go with the Flow...



GO

The clear San Marcos River begins at the artesian Spring Lake near the Meadows Center. It then flows through the town of San Marcos before joining the Guadalupe River. Explore the river. You can walk the trails or float in a kayak or tube. Either way, look for Texas Wild Rice in the water. You may also see wildlife—turtles, fish, birds, dragonflies, and maybe a beaver.

KNOW

Dragonflies (Order *odonata*)

- Have you ever been to the river and seen an insect with big eyes, a long narrow body, and colorful shimmering wings? If so, you probably saw a dragonfly or damselfly.
- What is one difference? When they are resting, dragonfly wings stick out on each side like an airplane. Damselfly wings touch behind the back.
- Dragonflies need fresh clean water. They lay their eggs on plants near or under water. A young dragonfly lives in water until grown.
- More than 200 kinds of dragonflies and damselflies are in Texas. These charming creatures are often named for their bright, vibrant colors (blue-eyed darter, striped emerald), their wing shape (spreadwings, broad-winged), their tails (clubtail, spiketail), or how they fly (cruisers, skimmers).

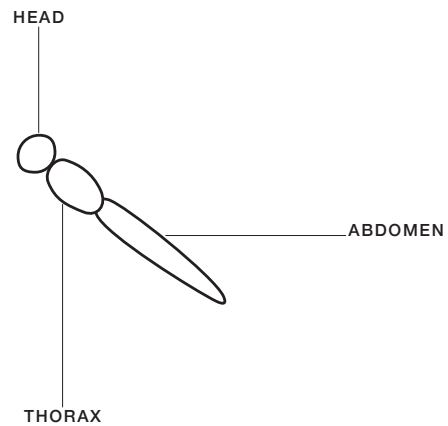
GROW



Build a Dragonfly

Insects have 3 body parts: **head**, **thorax** (in the middle) and **abdomen**.

Draw two eyes on the head. **Draw three legs** and **two sets of wings** on each side of the thorax.



My dragonfly's name is _____
 _____ (color)
 _____ (wing shape)
 _____ (how it flies)

Texas Wild Rice (*Zizania texana*)

Texas Wild Rice is a unique grass that grows only in the first 2 miles of the San Marcos River. Can you spot the Texas Wild Rice? Here are some clues. The plant has long leaves that flow gently in the current, like ribbons. Most of the plant is underwater. Some parts of it stick up above the water, like flowering wheat stalks. Texas Wild Rice is one of eight listed endangered species found in San Marcos. Because it is endangered, don't pull or mess with it.



