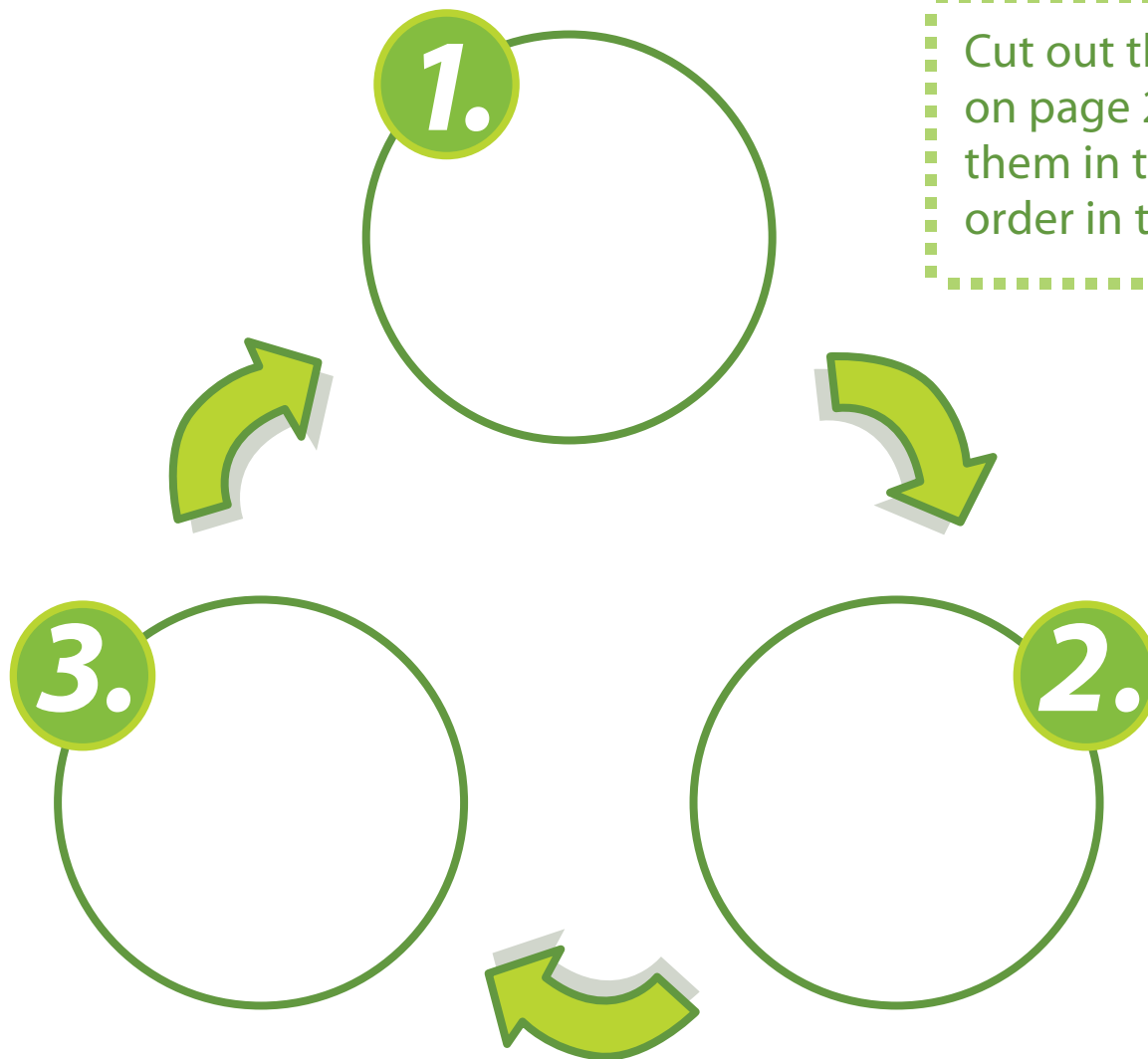


Life Cycle of a Dragonfly



Insects are *invertebrates*. This means that their skeletons are on the outside of the body, instead of inside. It is called an *exoskeleton*. An insect's body is divided into three sections: the head, the thorax and the abdomen. They have two antennae and six legs and they hatch from eggs. Some insects go through three stages of a life cycle, and some go through four stages.

The dragonfly goes through three stages of a life cycle.



Cut out the pictures on page 2 and paste them in the correct order in the life cycle.

Life Cycle of a Dragonfly



The female dragonfly lays her **eggs** on a plant in the water. The eggs hatch after a few weeks. The baby dragonflies are called **nymphs**. They live in fresh water for up to four years! Dragonflies, unlike butterflies, go through incomplete metamorphosis, which means they don't have a pupa stage (no cocoon). When they finish growing, they climb up a plant, shed their skin and become an **adult**, with very strong wings and large eyes with many lenses.

