Firefly

Pyralis Firefly

antennae

head

legs (jointed)

thorax

abdomen

wings (2 pair)

This segment lights up.

dark brown

yellow-green

black

yellow

orange
Firefly

Label the parts and color.

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**Firefly Facts**

- Fireflies are also known as lightning bugs.
- They are nocturnal insects.
- They are luminescent beetles.
- The Pyralis is the most common firefly in America.
- The tip or the last segment of the firefly glows a bright yellow-green color.
- The fireflies can actually control this glowing effect.
- The brightness of a single firefly is 1/40 of a candle.
- They need oxygen to make themselves glow.
- Fireflies use their glow to attract other fireflies.
- Males flash about every five seconds; females flash about every two seconds.
- The Pyralis is collected by biochemical industries for their luciferin.
- This is the chemical the firefly uses for its bioluminescence.
- This flying insect is about 0.75 of an inch long.
- The firefly is mostly black, with two redish-orange spots on the head cover.
- The wing covers and head covers are lined in yellow.
- The firefly has a hard exoskeleton, six jointed legs, two antennae, compound eyes, and a body divided into three parts (the head, thorax, and abdomen). Most insects also have these traits.
• Both the adults and the larvae are carnivores (meat-eaters).
• Fireflies eat other insects (including other fireflies), insect larvae, and snails.
• Firefly lights are the most efficient lights in the world—100% of the energy is emitted as light. (An incandescent bulb emits 10% of its energy as light and the rest as heat. A fluorescent bulb emits 90% of its energy as light.)
• Because it produces no heat, scientists refer to firefly lights as “cold lights.”
• Some eggs of fireflies glow.
• Fireflies have short lifespans.
• An adult firefly lives only long enough to mate and lay eggs—Some don’t even need to eat during their adult life stage!
• The larvae usually live for approximately one year.
• Females deposit their eggs in the ground, which is where larvae develop to adulthood.
• The larvae feed on worms and slugs that also live underground. They inject them with a numbing fluid.
• Fireflies love warm, humid areas. Because of this, you’ll usually see them in the summertime.
• Fireflies are on all continents except Antarctica.
• Fireflies need a moist environment to survive.
• If you attack a firefly they will shed drops of blood in a process known as “reflex bleeding.”
• This blood contains chemicals that taste bitter and can be poisonous to some animals. This is why many animals avoid eating fireflies.
• We use fireflies in medicine and science. They help us study diseases and help us detect life in outer space, as well as if food is spoiled or contains bacteria.
• Fireflies are also called: firefly beetle, glow worms, glow flies, moon bugs, lightning bugs, golden sparklers, blinkies (Jamaican term)
• Scientists don’t know for sure, but evidence points to the fact that “light pollution” may be a reason for the disappearance of fireflies all over the world.
• Fireflies use their flashing lights to attract mates, defend their territory, and warn off predators. All the light pollution in our world is interfering with their light flashing patterns.
• Human encroachment on their habitat could also be a cause of fewer fireflies.
• Different species of fireflies have different color "lights," they range from yellow-green to green to amber.
• There are more than 1,900 species of fireflies in the world!

*Gathered from about a dozen different website sources.