



GREEN-SCHOOLS STAY HOME - WATER



Idea - Make a Mayfly

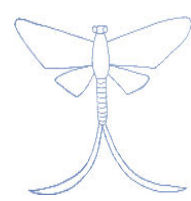
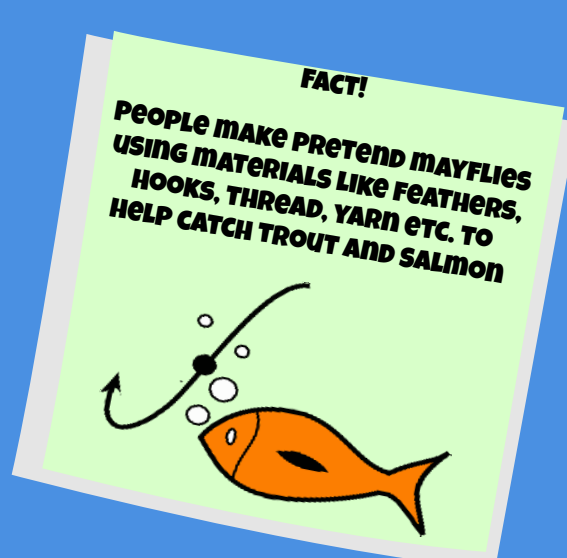
Mayflies (Ephemeroptera) are a type of fly that lives in and around rivers, lakes and wetlands. There are 33 types or species of mayflies in Ireland and 6 of these are threatened (in danger) which means they need extra protection. They are very important species as they provide food for many, such as birds, frogs, fish, bats and spiders and they are a sign or indicator of clean, unpolluted water.

The different stages of a mayfly's life are:

- Egg Stage - less than 50 to thousands can be laid by one female mayfly and they can be different shapes and sizes.
- Larva (or Nymph) Stage - emerges from the egg and grows underwater eating plants (algae), detritus (decaying dead plant/animal material) or in some cases other small insect larva. They can also moult up to 50 times.
- Adult Stage - involves two phases, the first is called the subimago which is what emerges from the water when the nymph sheds it's skin (moult) for the last time. The second is called the imago which is when the subimago moults and the final adult form emerges.

Some more interesting facts; the adults do not eat and usually all mayflies become full grown (mature) around the same time which is called the Hatch. They then can fly together in a large group (or swarm) which can be seen on weather radars and the adults have very short lives, generally 24 hours.

Some mayfly species are in danger due to water pollution from, for example: sewage, pesticides, industry and agricultural runoff (draining away of water and things in it).



Make a Mayfly



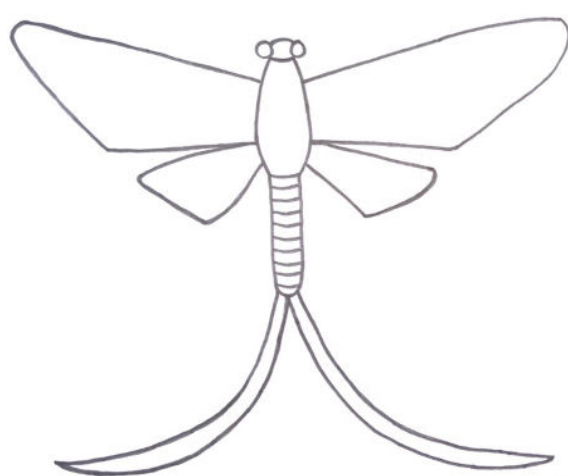
Make your own Mayfly to decorate your home or give as a gift.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- Paper, pencil and rubber
- Colouring pencils/markers and/or paint/paint brushes and jar with water
- Mayfly cut out or draw your own mayfly using the cutout image below as a reference
- Child friendly scissors or adults help
- String/thread and thin needle
- Glue

WHAT TO DO...

1) Draw an outline of a mayfly or print the cutout below or in pdf from the Green-Schools Stay Home Water Page, Week 8: <https://greenschoolsireland.org/green-schools-stay-home-water-week-8/>



2) Decorate your mayfly with whatever you have at home (see example opposite)

3) Cut out your mayfly and admire! Then, cut a piece of string or thread, use a needle and thread it into the neck of mayfly to come out the back. Tie a knot where the thread comes out and then create a loop at the other end of the thread and tie (you could also add any beads you have before tying the loop). Finally, hang to enjoy!



CONCLUSION...

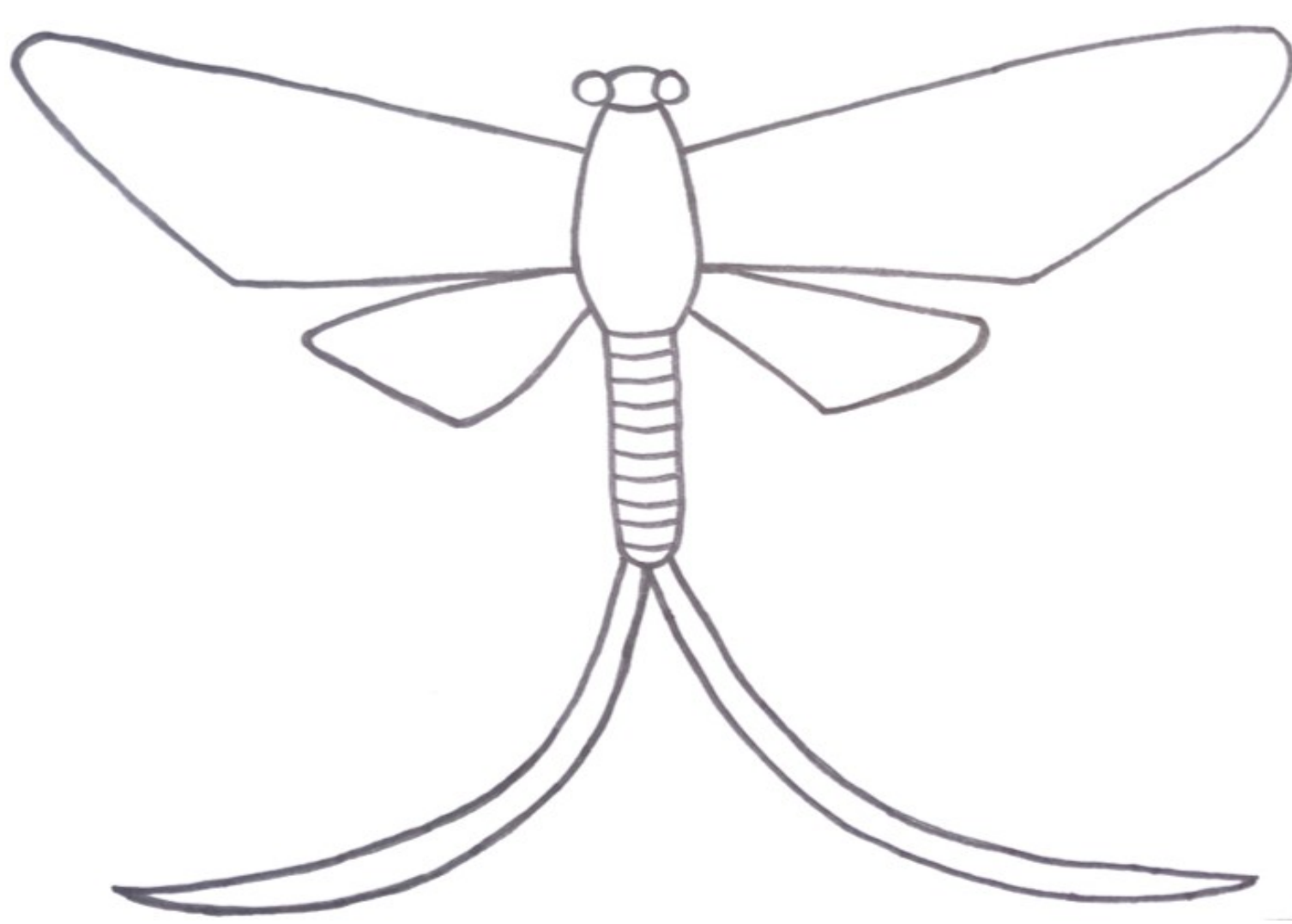
Did you enjoy making your mayfly? Do you see rivers and flies differently now? Can you remember one fact about mayflies? Maybe you could make one up for yours? You could make a few mayflies and create a mobile or a decorative photo line (pegs and line needed). Would you like to learn more about mayflies? If so, you could go to one of the following websites:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/invertebrates/other-insects/common-mayfly>

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Mayfly>

and watch a video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCtQa5ajmpU> or Bugs of the Underworld by Ralph and Lisa Cutter's <https://vimeo.com/44462901>

Mayfly Cutout



Thanks for taking part,
keep checking back for
more tips, experiments &
activities with
#GreenSchoolsStayHome