

## Beetle: Firefly or Lightning Bug



**My Home:** I am found in humid, warm areas of the world, most often in rotting wood, by the edges of stream, ponds, drainage ditches or in some other moist area. The greatest numbers of fireflies are found in Asia and South America.

**What I eat:** As a larva, I eat earthworms, snails and slugs. As an adult, I eat a variety of plants and other insects.

**What I look like:** I am approximately 3/4 of an inch long, and I usually am black with two red spots on my head with my outer casing outlined in yellow.

**How I am born:** I go through four stages of development: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The eggs are deposited in the ground and hatch in about a month. As a larva, I feed all summer long and hibernate during the winter. The next summer, I emerge and in about six weeks become an adult. Some species can live for several years by hibernating as larva during the winter.

**Fun Facts:** In the late evening the firefly will 'flash' a yellowish light to communicate with other fireflies. The males will flash approximately every five seconds and the females will flash approximately every two seconds. Many fireflies do not produce light.

There are approximately 1,900 species worldwide.