COMPLETE STORY + QUIZ

Emma and the Fireflies That Blinked in Code

Emma and the Fireflies That Blinked in Code | Suggested ages 5-6



Emma records a repeating firefly blink pattern and learns it is a natural signal rather than a secret message.

Read, talk, and discover

The complete story is followed by questions and a separate answer guide. Read aloud together, pause to talk, and take your time.

Print on US Letter at actual size, or choose Fit for A4. Use single-sided printing for activity cards.
Black-and-white printing is suitable.

Part 1

At dusk, Emma saw fireflies flash beside the pond. One group blinked twice, paused, and blinked twice again.

Part 2

Emma wondered if the lights were sending her a secret code. She drew dots for flashes and spaces for pauses in her notebook.

Part 3

She watched from the same bench for five minutes. The two-pause-two pattern repeated, while another group flashed once at longer intervals.

Part 4

Emma asked the nature guide before making a conclusion. The guide explained that different fireflies use different light patterns to find their own kind.

Part 5

They compared Emma's dots with a field chart. The first pattern matched one local firefly, and the slower single flash matched another.

Part 6

Emma covered her flashlight with red paper so it would not disturb the insects. She observed without catching or touching them.

Part 7

Soon, matching fireflies answered one another across the grass. Their lights formed living signals, even though they were not spelling human words.

Part 8

Emma learned that patterns carry information in nature. Recording what she saw helped turn a magical guess into a truthful discovery.

Draw, tell, or write

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.

My favorite part, and why I chose it

STORY QUIZ

Think about the story

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each question and all the choices. Circle one answer. A grown-up can read aloud; you can point or say your answer, too.

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1. What pattern did the first fireflies repeat?

A. Five flashes without stopping	B. Two flashes, a pause, then two flashes	C. One long blue light

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

2. How did Emma record the flashes?

A. With dots and spaces	B. With colored blocks	C. With musical notes

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

3. Why do different fireflies use different patterns?

A. To count trees	B. To find their own kind	C. To predict rain

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

Questions 4 to 5

4. How did Emma avoid disturbing the fireflies?

A. She caught them in a jar	B. She clapped loudly	C. She covered her flashlight with red paper

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

5. Were the fireflies spelling human words?

A. No, they were natural signals	B. Yes, they wrote Emma	C. Yes, they named the pond

Tell someone how you decided, or write a few words.

ANSWER GUIDE

For the grown-up

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Keep this page separate from the child's activity. Read directions aloud when helpful, and invite the child to explain their ideas.

1. B - Two flashes, a pause, then two flashes

Two flashes, a pause, then two flashes

2. A - With dots and spaces

With dots and spaces

3. B - To find their own kind

To find their own kind

4. C - She covered her flashlight with red paper

She covered her flashlight with red paper

5. A - No, they were natural signals

No, they were natural signals

Keep exploring

Draw your favorite part of the story. Tell a grown-up what happened before it and what happened next.