

## FLASHING FIREFLIES



There are about 2,000 different species of fireflies. Each one has its own unique flashing pattern, and some species don't even glow! Fireflies are a bioluminescent species, which means they can produce their own light. They blink at night to find a mate and to signal to possible predators that could be dangerous. To get a closer look at fireflies, we need to be respectful of them. For fireflies to have a good (temporary) home, we have to make sure there is enough air and moisture in the jar. Keep the fireflies in the jar for no more than 10-15 minutes, so they can safely return to their natural habitat.

### MAKE A FIREFLY VIEWING JAR

**Materials:** Canning jar, damp paper towel/coffee filter, grass and twigs, plastic wrap or paper, scissors

**Directions:**

1. Wet a paper towel and wring out the excess water (it only needs to be damp). Place it in the bottom of a clear jar
2. Add some small sticks and grass clippings
3. Take plastic wrap or paper and place it over the top of the canning jar. Poke large holes with scissors or a pencil
4. Attach the top covering with the band from the canning jar
5. Enjoy watching the fireflies glow! But remember to release them back to where you found them after about 10 minutes