



1. What is the difference between these 3 pictures?
2. Each picture depicts the same type of bug. What bug is this?
3. How and why does this bug do what makes it so well known?

1. **What is the difference between these 3 pix?** Beetle resting (top left), beetle in flight with abdomen apparent (bottom left), beetle producing light.

2. **What's the bug?** Lightning Bug. These beetles are also called fireflies and there are many species. Their insect family is Lampyridae.

3. **How and why do fireflies light up?**

The light we see is a cold light given off by the chemical process known as bioluminescence. There are a number of different species of fireflies and their light signal is different from one specie to another. This allows for mate recognition. The light may have evolved first as a warning signal to predators of their bad taste, i.e., don't eat me. I taste bad!

If you have time, there's more info in this video:

[https://youtu.be/AX\\_spP7ZXRM?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/AX_spP7ZXRM?feature=shared)