Activity Book

Ouch!

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Facts About Mosquitoes

World-wide more than 2,700 types of mosquitoes have been identified by scientists. The Shasta Mosquito & Vector Control District currently has identified 23 types of mosquitoes.

Some mosquitoes fly only a few hundred yards from the water from which they hatched. This is a good reason to make sure your home is safe from breeding mosquitoes. Dump any standing water around your home. Clean out your pets water bowls at least once a week.

Mosquitofish are used as a way to control mosquitoes. One mosquitofish can eat up to 100 larvae a day. They are useful in ponds, water troughs, neglected swimming pools, and other water features. Call your local mosquito district to obtain fish.

We all know mosquitoes are pesky, but some can spread dangerous diseases when they bite like encephalitis and West Nile virus. Dogs and cats can also get heartworm from treehole mosquitoes (Aedes sierrensis). Check with your veterinarian to learn options for preventing heartworm.

All mosquitoes must have food, water, air and shelter. Some mosquitoes lay eggs upon the surface of the water, others deposit their eggs on most soil ground, grass stems or in treeholes. Larvae of all species must have standing water in which to develop.
Only female mosquitoes bite people. They need blood to make their eggs. Male mosquitoes don’t bite, they feed on nectar and plant juices and only live for a short time.

Some lakes, ponds and streams are kept free of mosquito larvae by wind and wave action and by natural enemies including mosquito-eating small fish and various insects that develop in water. The adult mosquitoes also have natural enemies, including many birds. Natural enemies rarely are effective enough that no other control measures are needed.

A square foot of flooded area in a pasture can produce **1000** mosquito larvae.

This is an example of one square foot with a 1000 mosquitoes hatching.

Mosquitoes not only bite people, some mosquitoes bite frogs, snakes, turtles, birds and animals.

If the weather is warm, mosquitoes only need a few days to grow from an egg to an adult.

To protect yourself against mosquitoes remember the **4-D’s**

**Drain** standing water.

**Dusk or Dawn** are when mosquitoes are most active. Avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are present.

**Dress** in long sleeve shirts, pants and socks during dawn and dusk.

**Defend** yourself against mosquitoes using insect repellent.

Only female mosquitoes bite people. They need blood to make their eggs. Male mosquitoes don’t bite, they feed on nectar and plant juices and only live for a short time.

Mosquitoes are not very particular about where they lay their eggs - as long as there is enough water. Old tires, birdbaths, swimming and wading pools are all great places for mosquitoes to lay eggs.
What is a Mosquito?
Mosquitoes are insects. This means they have no backbone and are divided in three parts: the **head**, the **thorax** and the **abdomen**. The head has eyes, a mouth, and one pair of **antennae**. The mouth is long like a needle. It is called the **proboscis**, this is how female mosquitoes can bite animals through the skin to get blood. The thorax has three pairs of **legs** and one pair of **wings**. The abdomen contains the guts and reproductive organs.
Mosquitoes undergo a complete metamorphosis including the egg, larva, pupa and adult life-stages. All mosquito life-stages except adults require standing water to survive and develop.

The **Adult** stage: The adult comes out of the pupae stage in about 2 to 7 days. The average adult mosquito will live for about 2 weeks. After the female mates and has a blood meal, she is ready to lay her eggs.

The **Pupal** stage: After shedding their skins three times, the larvae turn into pupae. Mosquitoes do not eat anything in this stage.

The **Egg** stage: Female mosquitoes lay their eggs in water. The eggs take about 2-3 days to hatch.

The **Larval** stage: When the eggs hatch they become larvae. Larvae look like tiny wiggling worms in the water. They grow by shedding their skins.
Hi there! I’m Morgan, can you follow the dots by number and find my head, thorax and abdomen?
Can you find the mosquito breeding sources?

Where can I lay my eggs?
MOSQUITO WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the following words to find mosquito-related words:

GESG ___ ___ ___ ___
RALVA ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
APUP ___ ___ ___ ___
IQTUMSOO ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
LODBO ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
NOPHIS ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
TANENAN ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
TADUL ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
DASEISE ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
RATEW ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
BOSCISPOR ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
Hello, I’m Verna. I have a hint, the answers are throughout this activity book.

**Across:**
2. Mosquitoes lay _____ in water.
4. Tiny, bloodsucking insect.
6. Where mosquitoes lay their eggs.
8. Also called mosquito “wigglers”.
9. Neglected wading _____ can become mosquito sources.

**Down:**
1. Mosquitoes can carry _____ that make people sick.
3. Mosquito _____. (Sounds like “night”)
5. What you do when a mosquito bite itches?
7. Spray to keep the bugs away.
9. Last aquatic form of mosquito during life cycle.

Answers: (Across) 2. eggs  4. mosquito  6. water  8. larvae  9. pools
(Down) 1. germs  3. bite  5. scratch  7. repellent  9. pupa
Solve the Secret Code

Match the symbols below to the symbols above to find the correct letter. Good Luck!

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
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1.

2.

3.

4.

Answers:
1. WEAR LONG SLEEVES AND LONG PANTS
2. STAY INDOORS DURING DAWN AND DUSK
3. DRAIN ALL STANDING WATER
4. WEAR INSECT REPELLENT
The words from the list are hidden in the puzzle below. Find and circle as many as you can!
1. Where do mosquitoes lay their eggs?

2. Can you name 5 mosquito sources?

3. What is the best way to get rid of mosquitoes around your home? (Circle One)
   1.) Cut down all trees.
   2.) Clean up trash and toys that hold water.
   3.) Never water the lawn.

4. Why are mosquitoes sometimes dangerous?

5. What can you do to get rid of mosquitoes?
Anything that can hold water for more than a few days can breed mosquitoes. **Drain or dump all containers in and around your home at least once a week.**
Join the “Swat Team”
Against West Nile virus

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