



Name:

MOSQUITO ALERT!

Watch out! Summertime is also mosquito time. Millions of mosquitoes are out there. And they're looking for their favorite food: **YOUR BLOOD!**

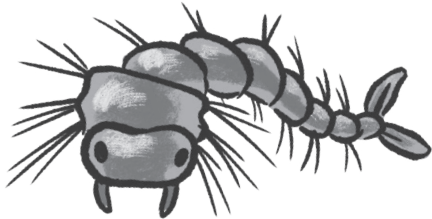
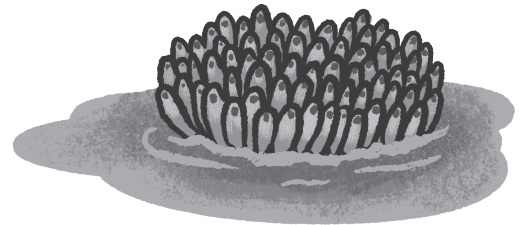
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The Four Stages of a Mosquito's Life Cycle

STAGE 1: EGG

Female mosquitoes lay about 200 eggs on the surface of water. The eggs stick together and make a tiny raft.

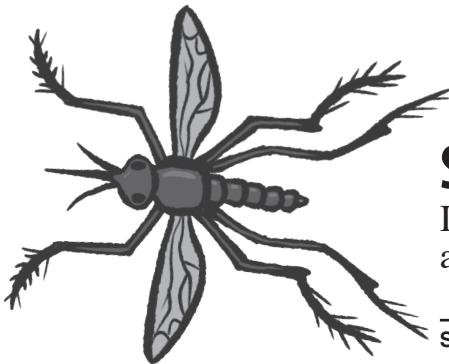


STAGE 2: LARVAE

After just one warm day, larvae hatch from each egg. They look like tiny, wiggling worms. Some people call them wigglers!

STAGE 3: PUPA

After a larva is grown, it changes shape and becomes a pupa. The pupa breathes air through a tube that it holds above the water's surface while tumbling around in the water.



STAGE 4: ADULT

It takes as little as one and a half warm days for a pupa to become an adult, flying mosquito.

Standards Link: Life Science: The sequential stages of life cycles change for different animals.



Name: _____

Is there a way to stop mosquitoes?

Mosquitoes can spread dangerous diseases to animals and humans. The Mosquito Abatement Team works to kill mosquitoes before they become a problem.

Do they send out mosquito swatter teams? Do they spray poisons all over? None of the above. They take a much more scientific and safe approach.

BUGSTER'S DICTIONARY
abatement (ə-'bāt-mənt) *n*: to put an end to or suppress.
abbey ('ab-ē) *n*: a monastery

Leave your spider friends in peace. We like to eat mosquitoes before they eat you!



Mosquito abatement specialists study the life cycle of a mosquito and then try to kill them before they become flying adults.

Stage 2 Strategy

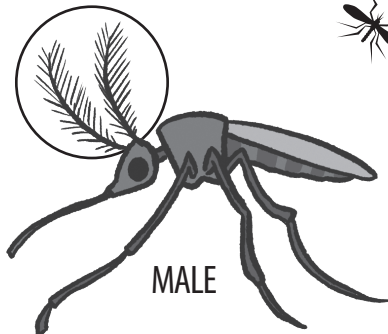
The best time to battle the bug is at the larva stage. Mosquito abatement teams often put mosquito-larvae-eating fish in the ponds and puddles where female mosquitoes have laid eggs.

Vive la difference!

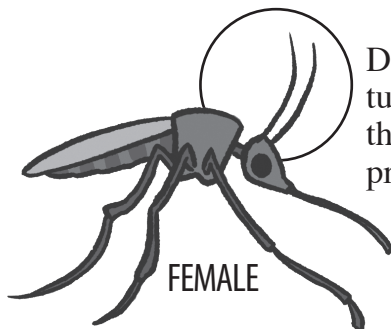
Which mosquitoes are males and which are females? It is important to know because only one sex drinks blood.

How many mosquitoes can you find on these pages?

Look closely at the head. Between the eyes are the antennae. They can sense sounds and odors. Male antennae are feathery. The female mosquito has long thread-like antennae.



MALE



FEMALE

Do you see a tiny, straw-like tube sticking out between the antennae? That is the proboscis, or mouth. The female uses this to drink blood. Male mosquitoes feed on plant juices and flower nectar.

Hold this page up to a mirror to discover a surprising mosquito fact!

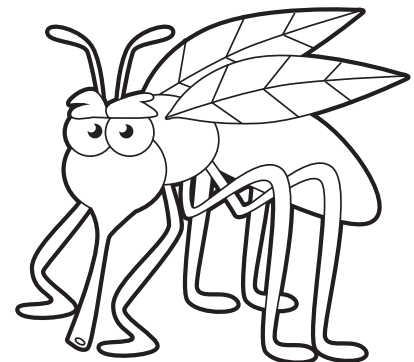
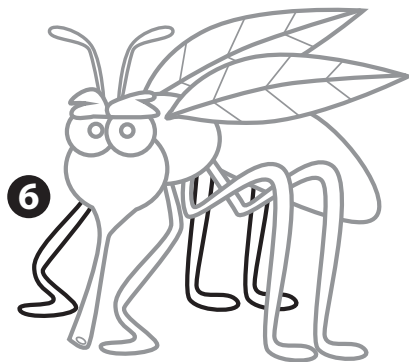
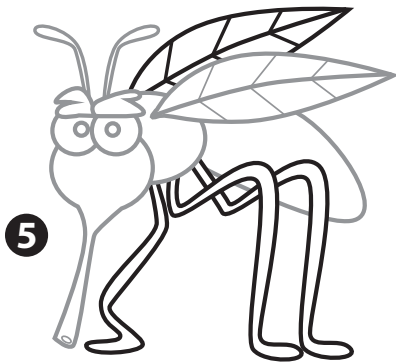
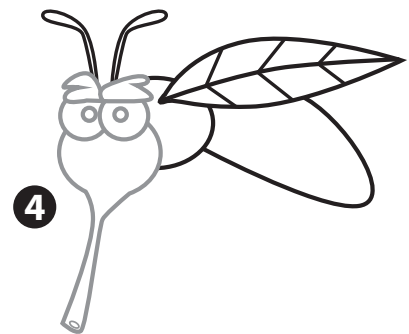
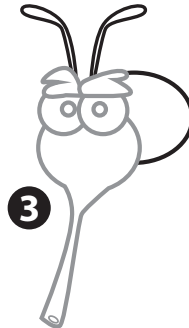
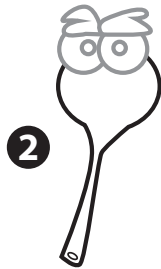
A female mosquito can drink blood
 and a male mosquito can't!
 A male mosquito can't drink blood
 and a female mosquito can!



Name:

Let's Draw

Follow these steps to draw a cartoon mosquito.



Mosquito Math



Pretend each letter of the alphabet has points. For example, A=1, B=2, C=3, and so on. How many points would the word “mosquito” be worth! Look through the newspaper for five words worth more than “mosquito” and five words worth fewer points.



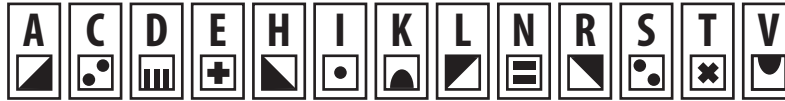
Standards Link: Math: Find the sum of numbers up to 200.


























Name: _____

Puzzler

USE THE SECRET CODE!



Why do mosquito bites itch?

Mosquito       produces an allergic reaction on the    . After a mosquito bites you, a small, itchy,    bump may appear on your    . Scratching the itch spreads the       and so the itch spreads, too.

Standards Link: Life Science: Animals have structures that serve different functions in survival.

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

SCIENTIFIC

The adjective **scientific** means using the methods scientists do to solve problems.

My **scientific** experiment showed how too much soda can harm teeth.

Try to use the word **scientific** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

When are mosquitoes most annoying?



ANSWER: When they get under your skin!



This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Find a word in the newspaper that starts with “m.” Do the same for each letter in the word “mosquito.” Cut out the words and paste them onto a piece of paper from top to bottom.

Name:

Kid Scoop Jumbo Word Search

Find the words by looking up, down, backwards, forwards, sideways and diagonally.
Then see how many of these words you can find in today's newspaper.

ADULT



AIR

BLOOD

EGG



EYE

FISH

HUMANS

LARVAE

LIFE



PLANT

PROBLEM

PUPA



SAFE

SOUNDS

TINY



G	V	M	E	L	B	O	R	P	K
G	J	H	F	S	R	N	O	A	H
E	W	I	B	T	O	I	P	V	U
A	D	U	L	T	B	U	A	Q	M
Y	S	L	O	I	P	Y	N	C	A
T	N	D	O	E	F	A	S	D	N
J	I	X	D	W	Z	E	Y	E	S
E	T	N	A	L	P	H	S	I	F
F	R	W	Y	L	A	R	V	A	E

Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognized identical words.
Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

Name:

Answers

Page 4

Why do mosquito bites itch?

Mosquito SALIVA produces an allergic reaction on the SKIN. After a mosquito bites you, a small, itchy, RED bump may appear on your SKIN. Scratching the itch spreads the SALIVA and so the itch spreads, too.

Page 6

