

Mosquito

Mosquitoes are tiny, buzzing creatures that can leave irritating, itchy bites. They can also spread very harmful diseases including malaria, yellow fever, and dengue. It is the female mosquito that bites, the male only feeds on plant juices.

There are over 3,500 different species of mosquitoes in the world. Some species eat frogs or snakes. Some species eat birds. Others prefer horses, cattle, birds and people.

The only mosquitoes known to carry the disease malaria are Anopheles mosquitoes. Symptoms of malaria include high fevers, shaking chills, flu-like symptoms, and anemia.

Mosquitoes, like flies, go through four stages in their life: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Most females lay their eggs in or near water. Some species prefer marshes, some species prefer puddles. Eggs hatch to turn into larva, then change into pupae. Once the adult emerges from the pupa it floats to the surface. Bloodsucking mosquitoes can live for a week or several months.

Mosquitoes have two compound eyes that stay open so they can detect any fast movements from predators. Have you ever tried to swat a mosquito? You would have to be very quick as they seem to take flight just before you strike! The whiny, humming sound of mosquitoes are their wings rubbing together. If you have ever been bitten by a mosquito you have probably noticed the red itchy bump. This is caused by an allergic reaction to the mosquito's saliva!



Quick facts

Diet: Carnivore

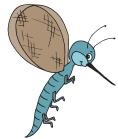
Life span: 2 weeks - 6 months

Size: 0.3 to 2 cm

Weight: 2.5 mg

Name: _____
Date: _____

Subject: KS 2 - Themes
Sheet: Mosquito



Read the information sheet about mosquitoes on the previous page and then answer these questions.

a) Write down two harmful diseases that a mosquito can spread.

b) Both male and female mosquitoes bite. Is this sentence **true** or **false**? _____

c) Complete the life cycle of a mosquito.
_____ → _____ → _____ → _____

d) How many eggs would there be if 4 mosquitoes lay 17 eggs each? _____

e) Underline the correct answer. The average weight of a mosquito is:

1. 3.6 mg 2. 7.1 mg

3. 2.5 mg 4. 1.5 mg

f) Fill in the missing vowels to this disease: y _ ll _ w f _ v _ r

g) How many syllables are in the word 'malaria'? _____

h) Unscramble the following word:
c r n i e a v r o _____

i) What causes the red itchy bump that appears after a bite?
