Learn about MOSQUITOES
There are about 20 species of mosquitoes in Santa Clara County. Mosquitoes are the most dangerous insect in the world, as some of them are capable of transmitting diseases such as West Nile virus, dengue, and malaria causing close to one million deaths per year.

Common mosquitoes are mostly active during dusk and dawn with the highest activity during warm months. Mosquitoes need standing water to reproduce and can do so in as little as a bottle cap of water. The best way to prevent mosquitoes is to drain, remove, or turn over anything that can hold water. This includes flowerpots, planter bases, wheelbarows, bird baths, toys, cans, rain gutters, pet dishes, buckets, old tires, and tarps.

The District has a robust mosquito prevention program in place, focusing on the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to eliminate mosquitoes before they reach adulthood and begin infecting people and animals. For more information on mosquito prevention and other programs and services provided by the District, please visit www.sccvector.org or call our office at (408) 918-4770.
Instructions - For Adults

In this lesson students will learn about the life cycle of a mosquito. The lesson will illustrate that mosquitoes go through major physical changes as they grow. The mosquito grows through four life stages; egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

Students will also learn where to find places where mosquitoes might live and eliminate water sources so that mosquitoes don’t have a chance to grow and spread diseases.

Objective

- Student will model the life cycle of a mosquito
- Student will identify places where early stage mosquitoes can be found

Vocabulary

- Egg, Larva, Pupa, Adult, Life cycle

Materials

- Safe cut scissors
- Glue
- Colors or markers

Lesson extension

Additional educational resources can be found on our website www.sccvector.org.
What is a mosquito?

A mosquito is a tiny flying insect that is famous for giving itchy red bites that can make people very sick.

Why are mosquitoes dangerous?

Mosquito bites can make people and animals very sick.

Did you know?

Only female mosquitoes bite you? Male mosquitoes drink nectar from flowers, but female mosquitoes need blood to lay eggs.

Female mosquitoes find humans using our breath and other human scents.

How do mosquitoes grow?

Insects physically change as they grow. Since mosquitoes are a type of insect, they also change as they get older. Mosquitoes go through four different types of changes called life stages. The four life stages are called egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Each growing stage looks very different.

First a female mosquito lays her eggs

The eggs hatch into larva

Larva grow and curl up into pupa

Pupa split open and out climbs a full-grown mosquito!

Let's learn more about each of the stages!
The egg stage

A female mosquito lays her eggs on top of very still water. The eggs look like little rafts in the ocean. Once the eggs hatch, the larvae swim into the water!

Have an adult help you cut out the shapes below.

The larva stage

Mosquito larvae live in the water. They eat algae and other small organisms found in the water. They shed their skin each time they grow bigger. Larva are usually brown, tan, or dark brown.
The pupa stage

After a few days, the larvae turn into pupa. They look like tiny dots in the water. When they are ready, the mosquito comes out from the pupa, just like a butterfly from the cocoon!

Have an adult help you cut out the shapes below.

The adult stage

Adults fly around looking for food and don’t live in the water. Female mosquitoes have a mouth that is shaped like a needle. They use it to drink blood from humans and animals. Can you find the mouth part on the female mosquito that looks like a needle?
The Mosquito Cycle

Glue each mosquito life cycle stage that you colored and cut, in order of where they would be found in the jar of water.
Mosquito habitats

Mosquito eggs, larvae, and pupae can survive in small amounts of water around your home. It’s important to not let mosquitoes make your home, their home!

Circle all of the places that mosquitoes could live in. There are twelve places on the page that would be good places to find eggs, larvae, and pupae. Can you find all of them? HINT: Think about all the places that might hold water after the rain.

Find the mosquito homes!
Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → and ↓.

BITE  ITCHY  SCRATCH
BLOOD LARVA WATER
EGG MOSQUITO
FEMALE PUDDLE
FLYING PUPA
THIS MOSQUITO IS TRYING TO MAKE ITS WAY INTO THESE WATER SOURCES
Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden ➔ and ➙ .

- BITE
- BLOOD
- EGG
- FEMALE
- FLYING
-ITCHY
-LARVA
-MOSQUITO
-PUDDLE
-PUPA
-SCRATCH
-WATER
-PUPA
Mosquito habitats: Answers
County of Santa Clara
Vector Control District
1580 Berger Drive
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 918-4770
www.sccvector.org
vectorinfo@cep.sccgov
@SCCVCD