

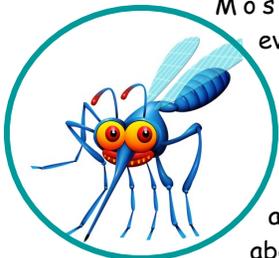


Facts about Mosquitoes

What is a Mosquito?

A mosquito (say: mus-kee-toe) is insect that is found all over the world. There are thousands of different kinds of mosquitoes in many different sizes and colors.

Mosquitoes evolved from earlier flies and dragon flies about 200 million years ago, and they have six legs like other insects.



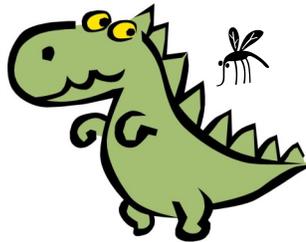
Mosquitoes evolved to eat pollen from the new flowers that appeared about this time. Like bees Mosquitoes can sting, but where bees

sting as a way of defending themselves from enemies, mosquitoes evolved a way to use their stingers to eat blood from reptiles like dinosaurs that were the main animal on Earth at this time.

There are approximately 3,500 species of mosquitoes worldwide. Most, but not all, are capable of feeding upon humans and domestic animals, although they may not always prefer to do so.

Only female mosquito needs blood from vertebrates (animals that have a spine) to lay eggs and pro-

duce more mosquitoes. She has a special part of her mouth that she uses to suck blood, and her saliva (spit) thins the blood so she can drink it.



When she finishes feeding and flies away, an itchy bump will be left where she bit you. In fact, it's the mosquito's saliva that makes the bite itch!



Special points of interest:

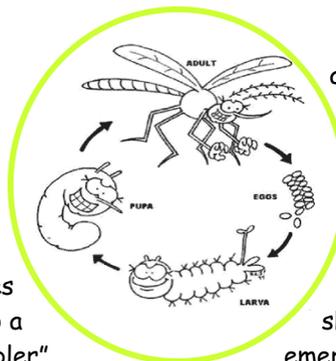
- ☺ What is a Mosquito?
- ☺ Mosquito life cycle
- ☺ Mosquitoes Diseases
- ☺ How you can protect you and your family from mosquitoes
- ☺ Protecting your pets from mosquitoes
- ☺ Fun activity page

Mosquito's life cycle

Mosquitoes have four different stages of their life cycle- egg, larva, pupa, and adult.

An adult female mosquito's eggs will hatch with in 24 hours and will developed into a larvae. Mosquito larvae are also known as "wigglers". Larvae must

breath air to survive, this is why the remain at the surface of the water. Larvae will molt (sheds the skin) around 4 times before turning into a pupa. Pupa or "tumbler" can not eat. The adult mosquito grows inside the pupa



and in to days or so, with will be fully developed and split the pupal skin and emerge.

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Common diseases caused by Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes not only have a nasty bite, but they also carry nasty diseases that can make people and animals sick. Not all mosquitoes carry diseases. However there is still diseases carried by mosquitoes that can be found nation wide.



West Nile Virus has been in the United States since 1999, and as been in Texas since 2002. This virus is a blood-borne disease that is transmitted through one single bite from a mosquito. There is 3 different types of West Nile , West Nile Virus, West Nile Fever, West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease.

West Nile Virus shows flu like

symptoms and about 80% of the population will get West Nile and never show any symptoms. West Nile Fever causes a person to get fever, headache, nausea and a possible rash. The more sever cases of West Nile that can lead to stroke like symptoms, coma, paralysis, and even death is West Nile Neuroinvasive Disease.

Another common disease is Encephalitis (en-sef-uh-lahy-tis). There are three forms of Encephalitis; West Nile, St. Louis, and Western Equine, all carried by birds. When a bird is bitten by a mosquito it can transfer the diseases to the mosquito, then affect humans. Like West Nile, symptoms of Encephalitis is mild

flu-like illnesses. This disease can even cause death by causing the brain to swell.

Malaria is much less likely to occur in Cameron County. Even though it does not occur here often, it is still very common. Symptoms of Malaria is fever, headache, vomiting, shaking chills, and other flu-like symptoms. Malaria may cause anemia and jaundice, and can be very life threatening.

Dengue is found in tropical and sub-tropical regions around the world . Another part of Dengue is dengue hemorrhagic fever and is the leading cause of death in children world wide.

Protecting yourself and your Family

"If there are any places around your home where water collects, you may be raising mosquitoes!!!!"

Protect your family from the dangers a mosquito can bring. Mosquitoes need water to breed, and when they get a



There is an easy way you can prevent this from happening. .

During the summer time, you might want to go out side and get in your little pool. Make sure that when you are finish that you or an adults dumps the water out. Pools are one of the number one place mosquitoes breed. Don't forget to use mosquito repellent when you are in the pool.

Check around your house for any standing water. If there are any

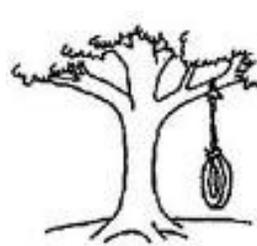
places around your home where water collects, you may be raising mosquitoes!!! Get rid of old tires, cans, bottles, jars, buckets, drums, and other containers that can hold water.



You should change water in flower vases, bird baths, planters, and animal watering pans, at least twice a week.

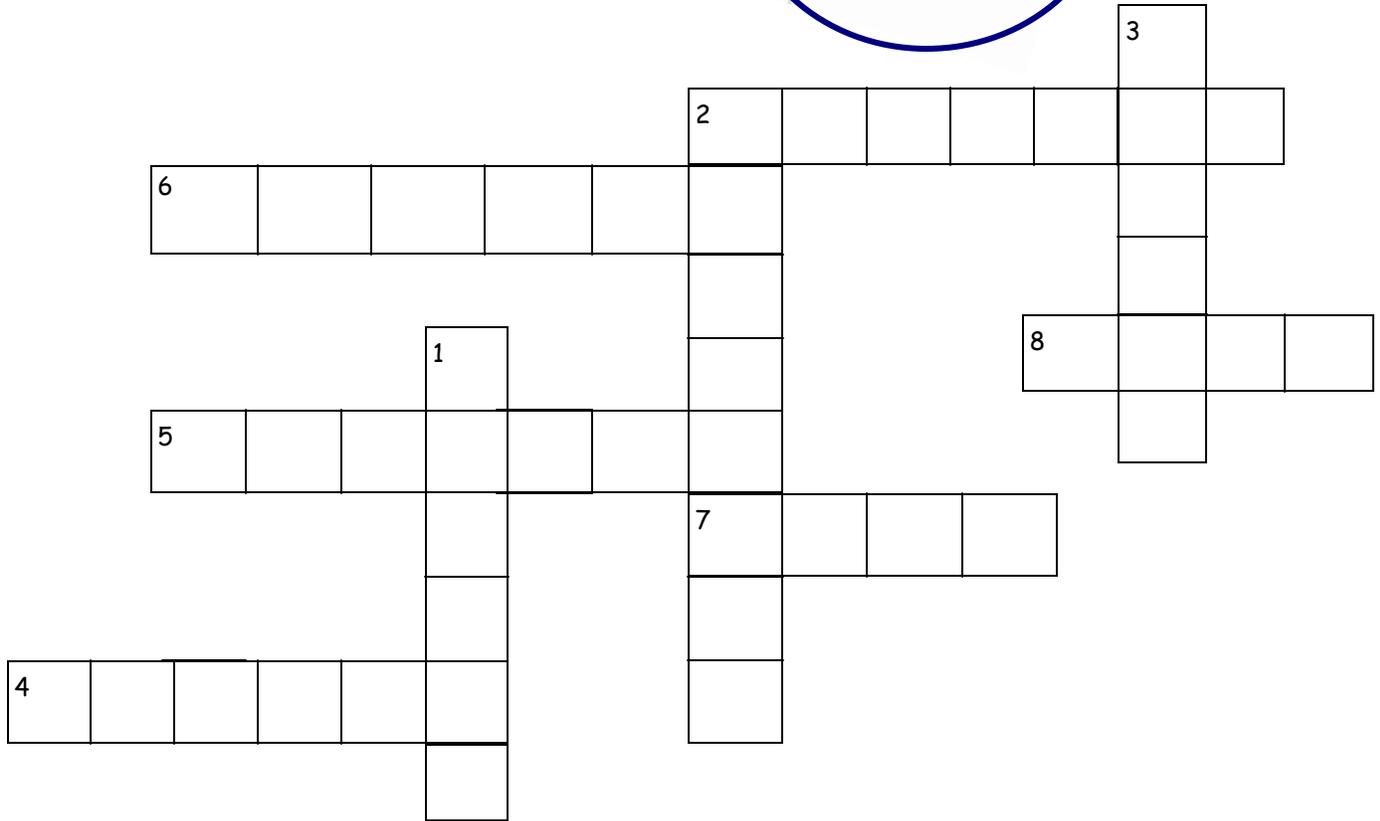
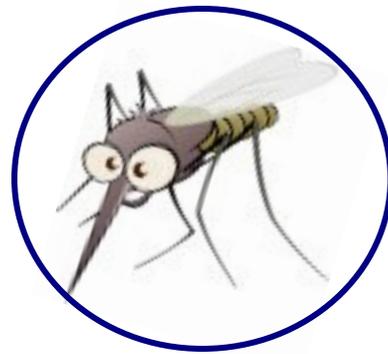
hold of water, hundreds of eggs start to slowly become hundreds of mosquitoes

Color the pictures that mosquitoes use to breed.



Mosquito Crossword Puzzle

Use the information that you learned in this newsletter to fill in the answers to this crossword puzzle



Down

1. Second stage of a mosquito's life cycle.
2. People who have this, think it might just be the flu.
3. This disease is found in tropical and sub-tropical regions.

Across

2. Also known as the Larvae.
4. Also know as spit.
5. Mosquitoes evolved over 200 _____ years ago from flies and dragon flies.
6. Only this gender of mosquitoes bite.
7. After a bite you will start to _____ the bite site will become red and swollen.
8. Also know as the "tumbler"

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Word Find:

Look for the words in the puzzle.

B	S	W	A	T	R	D	R	I	J	INSECT
P	U	P	A	B	Q	H	U	Q	I	MOSQUITO
F	L	Y	I	N	G	I	D	H	N	ADULT
T	J	A	P	N	A	O	C	E	S	FEMALE
C	Q	S	H	V	O	T	H	F	E	EGG
R	Q	C	R	L	A	K	I	E	C	LARVA
Y	T	A	B	R	Q	N	M	N	T	PUPA
I	L	F	C	B	I	T	E	A	E	BITE
M	O	S	Q	U	I	T	O	L	G	ITCH
A	D	U	L	T	X	Q	D	E	G	SCRATCH

BLOOD SWAT
FLYING

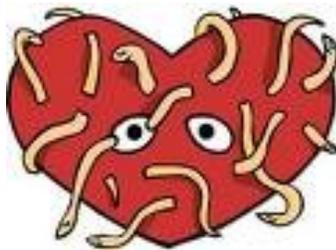


Mosquitoes and your pets

Mosquitoes can not only hurt humans, but they can hurt your pets as well. Mosquitoes carry a parasite that only dogs and cats can get.

When a mosquito bites and infected dog that is already infected with heartworms, the mosquito not only gets blood, but the also get baby heartworms. This probably isn't too good for the mosquito, but this is what the worms have been waiting for. During the next month, the heartworms babies develop into heartworm teenager, a stage partway between baby and adult.

Now, the mosquito bites another



dog, and infects this dog with teenage heartworms that are ready to become adults. Once the teenage heartworms are in the blood stream it takes about 2 to 3 months for the heartworms to reach the heart, and start producing thousands of baby heartworms. During the travel through the blood stream, the teenage heartworms become, adults attaching themselves to the heart. Heartworms will slowly take over the heart, and can become fatal. Heartworms is the leading cause if deaths in dogs.

To prevent your pets from heartworms, take them to the vet often.

Veterinarians will give your pet a heartworm preventative that will stop baby heartworms to be furthered produced. The medication can even get rid of heartworms all together for less sever cases.

Even if your pet is an inside pet, they can still get heartworms. Protect the extended part of you family, and use a heartworm preventative.

