



Grade 5 Life Sciences

"Students know plants use carbon dioxide (CO₂) and energy from sunlight to build molecules of sugar and release Oxygen."

Grade 6 Ecology (Life Sciences)

"Students know energy entering ecosystems as sunlight is transferred by producers into chemical energy through photosynthesis and then from organism to organism through food webs."

The purpose of this worksheet is to help students understand how mosquitoes play important roles in the transfer of energy in food webs. Generally, immature mosquitoes provide energy for a variety of aquatic predators, while adult mosquitoes provide energy for terrestrial predators. Female adult mosquitoes take blood meals from a variety of creatures (including birds and mammals) to make eggs.

Follow up discussion questions

Q: Where does the food web start?

A: The sun. Plants use the sun's energy to make food. Without the sun, this food web could not exist.

Q: What animals depend on mosquito larvae and pupae for food?

A: Mosquitofish, diving beetles, dragonfly naiads, and backswimmers all hunt immature mosquitoes. There are other animals not pictured that eat mosquito larva.

Q: How many arrows did you have pointing to the adult mosquito?

A: Seven. Female mosquitoes feed on many different birds and mammals (including humans and pets)

Q: What animal preys on immature and adult mosquitoes?

A: Dragonflies. Immature dragonflies (naiads) eat immature mosquitoes, while adult dragonflies eat adult mosquitoes.

Q: Why are mosquitoes important in food webs?

A: This question has a variety of answers, but a complete answer should include that other organisms depend on mosquitoes for energy.