



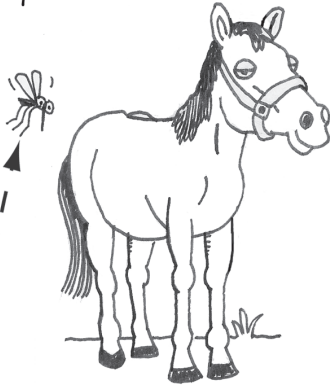
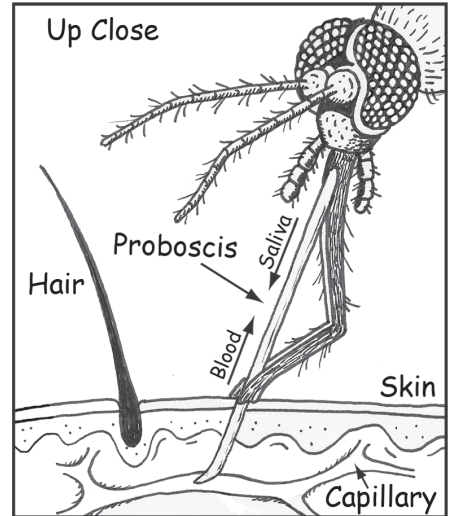
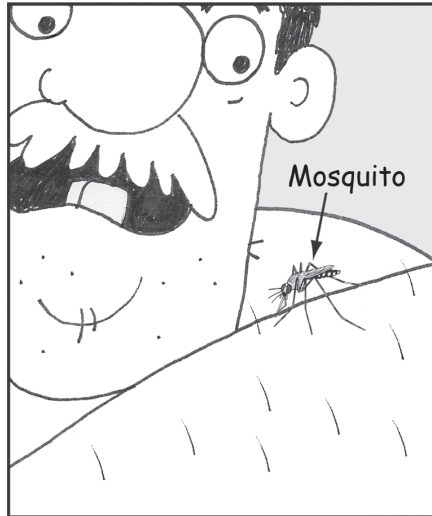
West Nile Virus

NAME _____

DATE _____

Mosquitoes are dangerous! Some species (kinds) can transmit (give) certain diseases to the animals and people they feed on.

When the female mosquito feeds, she uses a specialized mouth called a **proboscis** to pierce the skin, suck blood, and inject saliva into the host (the animal she is feeding on). Diseases are spread through the saliva of infected mosquitoes.



- Questions (read entire worksheet, write answers on back)**
1. What is a proboscis?
 2. What does a mosquito inject into the host while feeding?
 3. How long does West Nile virus stay in a bird's blood?
 4. What is a "dead end" host?
 5. Which of the two people in the picture is less likely to be bit by a mosquito? Why?
- ***Bonus: Circle the one mosquito in the picture that could not transmit WNV.

West Nile Virus (WNV) is spread by **mosquitoes** to **wild birds**. Once a bird is infected, the virus remains in the bird's blood for several days. During this time, the bird may fly many miles and mosquitoes in other areas may become infected when they feed on that bird. Mosquitoes can also pass the virus to horses and humans. Horses and humans are "dead end" hosts. This means that if a mosquito feeds on an infected human or horse, the mosquito will not get enough virus to infect another host. Not all animals die from the virus, but it is deadly to some.

