



Identification & Importance of Mosquitoes

TEACHER'S COPY

1. Take 1 adult mosquito from the vial in the Life Cycle Kit and use the Adult Mosquito Identification Key and a magnifying glass or a microscope (if available) to identify it.

Grade 7 Investigation & Experimentation

2. What species of mosquito did you identify?

Students will identify any of the four species listed on identification key.

"Use a variety of print and electronic resources (including the World Wide Web) to collect information and evidence as part of a research project."

3. How did you figure out that it was this species?

Answers may vary, but students need to use the ID key so that they can identify the unique characteristics of each type of mosquito.

"Construct scale models, maps and appropriately labeled diagrams to communicate scientific knowledge..."

4. Draw, label and color the mosquito that you identified in the space below. Make sure to include and label the characteristics that helped you identify that particular species of mosquito.

Drawings should be labeled and emphasize the unique characteristics of the mosquito that they identified.

5. One reason why it is important to control mosquitoes is that some species of mosquitoes have the ability to transmit certain diseases to people and animals. Use the internet or library to research any disease that is transmitted by mosquitoes. Find out the following information:

Note about Mosquito-borne diseases

Disease : Answers may vary Mosquito(es) that transmit it: varies

Mosquitoes transmit a wide variety of diseases including but not limited to: West Nile virus, malaria, dengue fever, yellow fever, canine heartworm and encephalitis. www.cdc.gov/ is has information about many mosquito-borne diseases, and would be a good place for students to begin their

Approximate number of people affected by the disease per year: varies

Geographic range of disease: varies depending on the disease

What needs to be done to combat the disease: Answers may vary. There are

many areas on earth where mosquitoes pose a serious threat to human

health, yet there is little or no organized mosquito control. There is

also a need to educate more people about the dangers of mosquitoes.

6. All species of mosquitoes prefer to bite humans rather than other animals.

True False

7. All mosquito larvae require clean water to live in.

True False

8. All species of mosquitoes can transmit West Nile virus to humans.

True False

9. Some mosquitoes are more likely to bite birds than humans.

True False

10. Why is it important to control mosquitoes? Mosquitoes have the ability to transmit diseases to

humans and other animals. Some of these diseases are deadly. Mosquitoes can be very

annoying when present in large numbers and can even reduce food production in farm animals.

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