**Mosquito Trivia Face Off**

**Directions**

This activity is intended for grades 6 – 8.

Split class into two teams and choose one member from each team to start first in a face-off. Each question is worth one point. The facilitator will read the first question out loud, then allow the contestants to buzz in (or raise their hands). The first one to buzz in with the correct answer gets the point. If correct, the corresponding team receives the point. A new student from each team will face-off in the next round.

If a contestant guesses incorrectly, the other contestant has a turn making a guess. If both contestants are incorrect, they can discuss the answer with their team. The contestant who originally buzzed in first gets the control.

Continue this until all questions are answered. The team with the most points wins.

**Supplies**

* Fight the Bite Mosquito Trivia Face-Off cards
* Pen and piece of paper to keep score
* Buzzer (students may also raise their hands)

**Learning Objectives**

* Knowledge of mosquito biology and ecology
* Identification of mosquito habitats
* Knowledge of diseases mosquitoes can carry and symptoms of the diseases
* Maine Learning Results in Health Education: A1, A3, A4, and C2

**Fight the Bite: Mosquito Trivia Face-Off Questions**

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| **What part of the body fills up with blood?**  A: Abdomen | **What does a female mosquito use to pierce the skin?**  A: Proboscis |
| **What do male mosquitoes feed on?**  A: Plant nectar | **What is the third stage of a mosquito’s lifecycle?**  A: Pupal |
| **Why do female mosquitoes need blood?**  A: To lay eggs | **What part of the mosquito’s body do their legs attach to?**  A: Thorax |
| **What is the long feathery organ used to hear and smell?**  A: Antennae | **What is the process of development from immature to adult mosquito called?**  A: Metamorphosis |
| **What is essential for mosquitoes to complete their lifecycle?**  A: Water | **Name an example of a natural container where mosquitoes breed?**  A: Spots between branches of trees and holes formed in trees where water collects. |
| **What type of habitat has water sources present for long periods of time?**  A: Permanent water | **What type of habitat has water sources that alternate between wet and dry?**  A: Flood water |
| **Which pathogen can mosquitoes that prefer bogs and swamps carry?**  A: Eastern Equine Encephalitis | **Which pathogen can mosquitoes that prefer flood water carry?**  A: West Nile virus |
| **What is the nick-name for the larvae stage of the mosquito?**  A: Wigglers or wrigglers | **What is the nickname for the pupae stage of the mosquito?**  A: Tumblers |
| **How many species of mosquitoes are currently found in the state of Maine?**  A: 45 | **How many eggs do females usually lay at a time?**  A: 50-300 |
| **What is an example of a man-made container that can collect water?**  A: Tires, buckets, flower pots, pet bowls, catch basin, bird baths, etc. | **How often should you empty standing water so that mosquito larvae won’t have time to complete their lifecycle?**  A: At least once per week |
| **What type of clothes will lower your chances of getting bitten by a mosquito?**  A: Long sleeves, long pants, and long socks. | **What agency should mosquito repellent be approved by?**  A: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) |
| **Name one repellent that is approved for use on skin.**  A: DEET, IR3535, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus | **What repellent is approved for use on clothing?**  A: Permethrin |
| **What is a natural repellent?**  A: Oil of lemon eucalyptus. | **Name one symptom of EEE, WNV, or JCV?**  A: Headache, fever, vomiting, feeling tired, encephalitis, meningitis, stiff neck, paralysis, or seizures. |
| **How do mosquitoes detect a human they want to bite from far away?**  A: Carbon dioxide, which we exhale when we breathe | **What is one of the mosquito-borne diseases endemic in Maine?**  A: EEE, WNV, JCV |
| **Where in the U.S. is EEE found?**  A: EEE is typically found on the east coast. | **Where in the U.S. is WNV found?**  A: Throughout the continental U.S. |
| **What is the term for a host that cannot transmit the virus to others?**  A: A dead-end host | **What is the term for an organism that transmits the pathogen from one animal to another?**  A: Vector |
| **What is the term for an animal in which the infection lives?**  A: A host | **When are mosquitoes that can carry EEE, WNV, and JCV most active?**  A: Dawn and dusk |
| **What is the process called when a bird infects a mosquito that infects another bird?**  A: Amplification Cycle | **What role does a bird play in the transmission cycle?**  A: A host |
| **What role does a mosquito play in the transmission cycle?**  A: A vector | **What role does a human or horse play in the transmission cycle?**  A: A dead-end host |
| **How many stages does the life-cycle of a mosquito consist of?**  A: Four stages | **If you are infected with a mosquito-borne illness, how long will it take for symptoms to appear?**  A: 3-18 days after infection |
| **If infected with a mosquito-borne illness, how long do symptoms usually last?**  A: 1-2 weeks | **What is the treatment for mosquito-borne illness?**  A: No treatment, only support |