



Hello, Mosquito!

Skill: Create a model of a mosquito's head. Study the model and discuss how a mosquito's mouth is shaped specifically for drinking liquids.

Estimated Lesson Time: 45 minutes

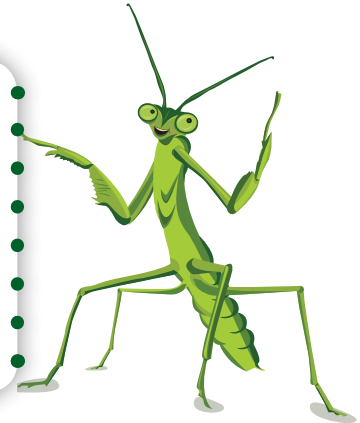
Teacher Preparation:

1. Collect one empty, clean gallon milk jug for each student.
2. To create a mosquito head model, cut each milk jug in half vertically so that the entire handle is on one half. Discard that portion.
3. Cut two three-inch circles for each child from bubble wrap.
4. Photocopy the mouth pattern below for each student.



Materials for each student:

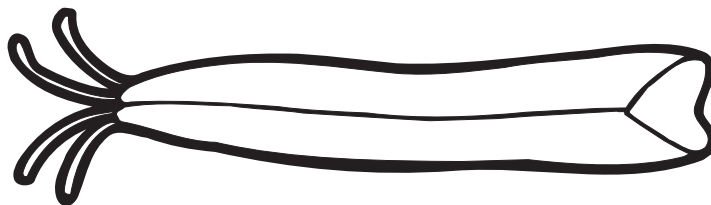
• ½ milk jug	• 2 bubble wrap circles
• black pipe cleaner	• tape
• tempera paint (red and either black, brown, gray, or tan)	• mouth pattern
• paintbrush	• scissors
• glue	• crayons



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Mouth Pattern
Use with "Hello, Mosquito!"



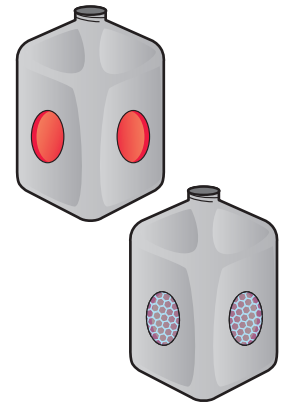


“Hello, Mosquito!” Lesson

1. Explain that insect heads have three main parts: the mouth, eyes, and antennae. Point out that the mouth of each insect is designed specifically for how the insect eats. Insects such as mosquitoes pierce food to suck juices or blood.
2. Provide each child with the materials needed to create a mosquito head.
3. Have students paint the outside of the milk jugs black, brown, gray, or tan and then set the jugs aside to dry.

Fun Fact: Most mosquitoes are black, brown, gray, or tan.

4. Next, direct students to paint two red, three-inch circles on the jug. Once the paint has dried, distribute two bubble wrap cushioning circles per student and lead students to glue one circle on top of each painted circle (compound eyes).



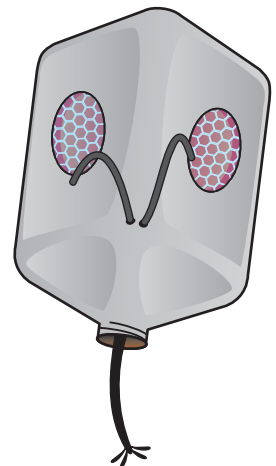
Fun Fact: Mosquitoes have two huge compound eyes that cover much of their head. These eyes consist of thousands of six-sided lenses. Mosquitoes can't focus their eyes for sharp vision, but they can quickly see any movement. The eyes are always open, even when the mosquito is resting.

5. Use scissors to carefully poke two small holes through the plastic between the two compound eyes. (**Note:** This step should be completed only by an adult.)
6. Next, ask the student to fold the pipe cleaner in half and insert (from the back side of the mask) each end through the holes (antennae). Have the child tape the antennae in place and bend or curl the pipe cleaner ends.

Fun Fact: A mosquito hears and smells with its antennae.

7. Finally, ask the student to color the mouth pattern black and tape it to the inside of the jug's spout. Discuss the shape of the mouth and how it is designed to meet the mosquito's needs.

Fun Fact: The mouth of a mosquito looks like a funnel. The widest part is near its head, and the tubelike part, called the proboscis, extends downward. The mosquito uses its proboscis to drink liquids, such as nectar from plants. Only the females “bite” to drink blood.



8. Take your swarm of student mosquitoes to visit other classes so they can share what they've learned.