BE A MOSQUITO DETECTIVE
HELP PREVENT MOSQUITOES AND THEIR DISEASES!

HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO BE A GREAT MOSQUITO DETECTIVE

There are many types of mosquitoes. All mosquitoes start as eggs laid in water by a female mosquito. Larvae hatch from the eggs and eat small debris in the water. They grow and become pupae, similar to a cocoon, where their bodies develop into adults. Eventually, they hatch off the water as adult mosquitoes. These series of changes are called metamorphosis.

When the female mosquito bites, she uses the blood as food for her eggs. Each time she bites she lays more eggs. Because of multiple bites, she can carry disease to people and animals like birds and horses.

Each type of mosquito inherits traits from its parents. Some traits include what animals they prefer to bite. Another trait is their choice of the kind of water where they lay eggs. Some mosquitoes like dirty water and others like clean water. Some like water held in trees and others like salty water in marshes by the ocean.

Over many years each type of mosquito adapted to the environment that was available to them. The most important types are mosquitoes around your home because the diseases mosquitoes can carry may hurt people.

NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE BASICS OF MOSQUITOES, DRAW ARROWS AND LABEL THE LIFECYCLE STAGES IN PROPER ORDER!

Remember, the stages are:
1) adult mosquito, 2) egg raft
3) larva, 4) pupa, then back to an adult mosquito.

Next to the mosquito, write “bites to get blood for laying eggs”.

Then write “dump water” between every lifecycle stage to stop mosquito development.

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU ARE NOW A “MOSQUITO DETECTIVE!” TURN THIS PAPER OVER AND START YOUR DETECTIVE WORK.
DETECT THE SOURCE!!!
Remember dumping standing water changes the mosquitoes’ environment which leads to fewer mosquitoes and may prevent mosquitoes from hurting people with disease. Use the drawing and read the lists below to detect areas where mosquitoes develop and take appropriate action. Share your skills and plans with your parent(s)!

- **Buckets and containers:** Turn over or store in shed/garage
- **Bird baths:** Clean out and replace water weekly
- **Outside tarps or plastic:** Remove water and if not in use, fold and place in a dry area like a shed
- **Small plastic or blow-up wading pools:** Change water weekly or place in shed or garage when not in use
- **Pet drinking water bowls:** Clean and replace water frequently
- **Open trash containers:** Close lids
- **Wagons and toys:** Remove water and place in dry area
- **Potted plant saucers:** Sweep out water in saucers and try not to over water plant
- **Look** for anything else holding water and dump it out or get your parent to help

**Actions Parents and Kids can do together to prevent mosquitoes**

- **Tires:** Drain water and store in dry area or dispose of at a landfill
- **Leaky hoses, faucets, sprinklers and pipes:** Help your parent in replacing or repairing these objects
- **Screens:** Replace torn screens
- **Dirty or Neglected swimming pools/spas/ponds:** Typically green water is common in these items. If no longer in use, remove these items or restore to working condition. Another solution is to have a parent call the District for free mosquito eating fish at (209) 982-4675
- **Wheelbarrows:** Dump water and store upright so water can't collect
- **Rot holes in trees:** Fill cavities and/or call arborist for advice
- **Boat, spa, and pool covers:** Remove water from covers weekly
- **Low areas:** Do not over-water and sweep away excess water to dry out faster
- **Kayaks and canoes:** If outside, turn over with bottom side up
- **Rain Gutters:** Parents clean out at least twice a year

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**Actions Kids can do to prevent mosquitoes (with parent’s permission)**

209.982.4675
7759 S. Airport Way, Stockton, CA 95206
Monday-Friday 7a.m. to 3:30p.m.

Visit our website for more information: www.sjmosquito.org