

Name _____

The Mighty Mosquito: Small but Significant



Did you know that mosquitoes are some of the most fascinating yet frustrating insects in the world? These tiny creatures are part of a group of insects called "flies" and have existed for over 100 million years! Mosquitoes can be found almost everywhere on Earth except in Antarctica.

A mosquito's life begins in water. Female mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water, like ponds, puddles, or even old tires. The eggs hatch into tiny larvae, sometimes called "wigglers," because they wriggle around in the water. After growing into pupae, they finally emerge as adult mosquitoes, ready to fly.

What makes mosquitoes truly unique is their ability to feed on blood. Only female mosquitoes drink blood, which they need to lay eggs. Males, on the other hand, prefer nectar from flowers. Female mosquitoes use their long, needle-like mouths, called proboscises, to pierce the skin of animals or humans and suck up the blood. This process can sometimes leave itchy bumps behind.

Unfortunately, mosquitoes are known for spreading diseases like malaria and dengue fever. That's why people often use bug spray or mosquito nets to protect themselves. But did you know mosquitoes are also an important part of nature? They are food for animals like birds, bats, and fish, and they help pollinate plants while feeding on nectar.

Despite their tiny size, mosquitoes have a big impact on the world. So next time you hear their familiar buzzing, you'll know there's more to these little insects than meets the eye!