

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Mosquito Reproduction: A Tiny World of New Beginnings



Mosquitoes are small but efficient at reproducing, which is one reason why they are so common around the world. Their life cycle starts with mating, and it doesn't take long for them to create the next generation.

Mosquitoes usually mate in swarms. Male mosquitoes gather in large groups, often near water, to attract females. When a female chooses a mate, the pair quickly completes the mating process. Male mosquitoes don't live long after mating, while females move on to prepare for laying eggs.

After mating, the female mosquito needs blood to help develop her eggs. Once she finds a meal, she lays her eggs on the surface of standing water, such as ponds, puddles, or even water in a flowerpot. A single female can lay up to 300 eggs at a time! Mosquito eggs are tiny, often smaller than a grain of rice, and can hatch in just 2-3 days if conditions are right.

The mosquito's life cycle includes four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. The entire process from egg to adult can take about 10 days, depending on the temperature and environment. Female mosquitoes can lay eggs several times during their life, which usually lasts about 1-2 weeks.

Unlike some animals, mosquitoes do not care for their young. Once the eggs are laid, the female leaves them behind to hatch and grow on their own. The young mosquitoes survive by feeding on tiny organisms in the water until they are ready to become adults.

This ability to produce so many offspring so quickly makes mosquitoes hard to control. Even though they are tiny, mosquitoes play a big role in ecosystems and have adapted well to survive almost anywhere on Earth.