

Name _____



What Does a Mosquito Look Like?

Mosquitoes may be tiny, but they have a lot of fascinating details about their appearance! These insects are usually no larger than 15 millimeters long, which is about the size of a fingernail. Most mosquitoes weigh less than 2.5 milligrams, making them incredibly light and easy to swat away—if you're quick!

Mosquitoes are typically gray or brown, but some species have unique patterns. For example, the Aedes mosquito has white stripes on its legs and body, which makes it stand out. Their small, slender bodies are supported by long, thin legs, which they use to land quietly on their prey.

One of their most noticeable features is their proboscis. This long, needle-like mouthpart is designed for sucking blood or nectar. The proboscis is not just one piece—it is made of six parts, including tiny cutting tools and a tube for drawing up liquid. It's like a built-in straw and knife combined!

Mosquitoes also have two wings, which help them fly with a distinctive buzzing sound. Their wings are transparent and covered in tiny scales, which help them move quickly. On their heads, you'll find large, round compound eyes that allow them to see in multiple directions at once. They also have two antennae that help them sense smells and vibrations.

While mosquitoes might look fragile, they are perfectly built for their job. Their lightweight bodies make them expert fliers, and their unique proboscis is perfect for their meals. Whether you're admiring their striped legs or listening to their buzz, there's no mistaking a mosquito when you see one!