The Buzz on Mosquito Growth Jars

Project Scope and Purpose

- Students make predictions on mosquito growth and compare to observations over 14 days.
- Students observe mosquito growth stages and count how many of each mosquito life stage are found in the jar.
- Students plot observations on a graph. See the "V.I.P. Lesson Extension" document for details and handouts.
- Lesson is complete when the last mosquito dies or the 14-day observation period ends.

Supplies Provided by SGVMVCD during Drop-off:

- Jar
- Larvae
- Sugar cube
- Digital copies of the "V.I.P. Lesson Extension" lesson plan and student handouts

Required Materials not Supplied by SGVMVCD:

- Small spray bottle with water (for misting the jar)
- Printed copies of the "V.I.P. Lesson Extension" lesson plan and student handouts

Jar Drop-off:

The jar with larvae will be dropped off the day of the VIP classroom presentation. If no presentation is occurring, the jar will be left with the front office staff to avoid classroom disruptions.

Jar Maintenance:

- The jar should not be opened at any point of the project. The larvae will eat the algae and bacteria found in the water in the jar.
- Once adult mosquitoes emerge, place the sugar cube on the top of the jar and mist the jar with 3 - 5 sprays, completely wetting the sugar cube.
    - The sugar cube is a substitute for nectar. Mist the jar lid every few days to soften the sugar cube and provide a humid environment for the mosquitoes.

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Safeguarding the Jar:

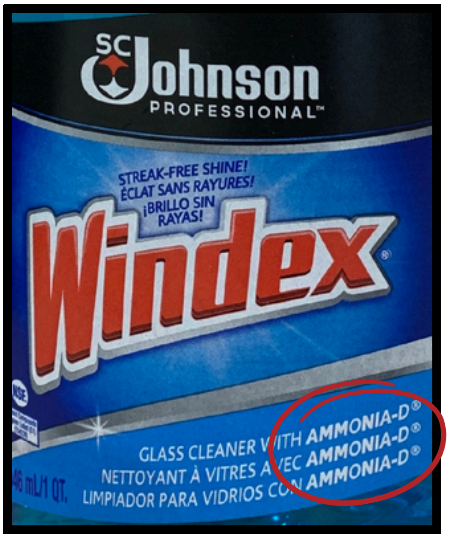
- Keep out of direct sunlight. Place in a secure location: your desk, out of reach on an open shelf, or some other place where you can control access.
- If a new jar is required due to damage, please let us know ASAP.
- If the jar is tipped over and water has drained out, tap water can be added. Wash any larvae clinging to the mesh, back down into the water as you refill it.

Project Completion:

The project is over once all of the mosquitoes have perished. This will take approximately 2 weeks. Once you have ensured that nothing is flying around in the jar, there is no need to open the lid. Empty the contents of the jar through the mesh of the lid. This should be done on soil or grass, and well away from any landscaping drains. **Toss the jar into the trash**.

NOTE: DO NOT pour water into a drain. Mosquitoes can grow in the u-bend of an indoor sink drain.

Ending the Project Early:



If the teacher chooses to end the project early for any reason, or adults persist after the time allotted, there are 2 steps to eliminate the mosquitoes:

1. Spray Windex with Ammonia-D through the screen to kill the adult mosquitoes. The Ammonia-D is essential. This can be purchased at most stores with a cleaning supply section or online.
2. Once you have ensured that nothing is flying around in the jar, empty the contents of the jar through the mesh top onto soil or grass, away from any drains. **Note:** If the lid is removed and the water is poured into a drain, mosquitoes can grow in the drain.

About the Mosquitoes:

- The mosquitoes supplied will be either *Culex* or *Aedes* mosquitoes (or both).
- Each jar will contain approximately 10 mosquito larvae.
- The mosquitoes are disease-free and safe for classroom observation. However, if the jar is opened with adult mosquitoes, the disease-free mosquitoes may bite.
- If no mosquitoes develop into adults, please report this to **EcoHealth@sgvmosquito.org**.

Safety and Health:

- Anyone touching the contents of the jar should wash their hands afterwards. The water contains algae and bacteria typically found in stagnant water.
- If mosquitoes escape due to an accidental drop of the jar or intentionally opening the jar, smash the flying adult mosquitoes as quickly as possible to avoid bites. Mop up water containing larvae and pupae with paper towels and throw them into the trash. Do NOT rinse out sponges or rags in sinks or drains.

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