



Are You a Mosquito Whiz? Take this Quiz to find out!

1. How many kinds of mosquitoes live in Massachusetts?
a. 1 b. 51 c. 178 d. 1750

2. How fast does a mosquito beat its wings when it flies?
a. 50 times in one second
b. 30 times in one minute
c. 3 times in one hour
d. 500 times per second

3. What are some things that mosquitoes eat?
a. Plant nectar b. Decaying matter c. both!

4. What is the tube that a mosquito eats through called?
a. Meniscus b. proboscis c. straw d. siphon

5. True or false? Mosquitoes only bite people.

6. Why do mosquitoes bite?
a. To annoy people b. To get blood to make eggs c. It's fun!

7. True or false? You should let mosquitoes bite you.

8. What is *NOT* a good way to protect yourself from mosquito bites?
a. Wear insect repellent when you are outdoors
b. Carry around a frog to eat the mosquitoes
c. Wear long sleeves and long pants outdoors
d. Play inside after the sun goes down

9. Where is a place that you can find around your house where mosquitoes might lay their eggs?

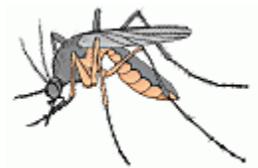
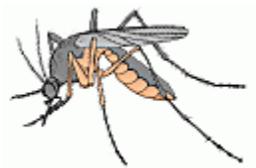
- a. In the gutters
- a. In a bucket filled with rain
- b. In puddles on the sidewalk or driveway
- c. All of the above

10. True or False: Some adult mosquitoes live their whole life in only four days

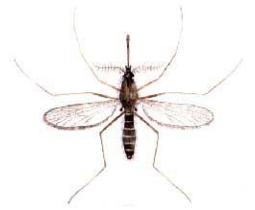
11. Which is *NOT* one of the 4 stages of a mosquito's life cycle?

- a. Egg
- b. Larva
- c. Pupa
- d. Teenager
- e. Adult

12. True or False: Mosquitoes are not good for anything



Answers



1. How many kinds of mosquitoes are there in Massachusetts?

51! There are 51 kinds, or species, of mosquitoes that live in Massachusetts. Some of the most common kinds are called: *Aedes vexans*, *Coquillettidia perturbans*, *Culiseta melanura*, *Ochlerotatus abserratus*, *Culex pipiens* and *Ochlerotatus canadensis*.

2. How fast does a mosquito beat its wings when it flies?

500 times per second! Wow, that's fast!

3. What are some of the things that mosquitoes eat?

Both! Mosquitoes eat plant nectars and juices, and decaying matter for energy to fly. Females also take a blood meal so they can make eggs.

4. What is the tube that a mosquito eats through called?

Proboscis! This tube is like a straw. Mosquitoes put the tube into their food and suck the food up through it.

5. True or false: Mosquitoes only bite people?

False! Mosquitoes bite lots of different animals like birds, horses, cats and dogs, and even turtles and frogs.



Did you know? Only the female mosquitoes bite and take a blood meal!

6. Why do Mosquitoes bite?

To make eggs! Mosquitoes don't bite because they are mean or it is fun for them. Female mosquitoes bite because they need blood to make eggs. Female mosquitoes can lay 100-300 eggs at a time and can do this several times during their lifespan!

Did you know? Mosquitoes are more attracted to dark colors than light colors of clothes!

7. True or false: You should let mosquitoes bite you.

False! Most mosquito bites will only make you itchy. But, some mosquitoes can carry germs that spread to you when they bite. In Massachusetts, the germs they can carry are West Nile virus (WNV) and eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE or Triple E). These viruses can make some people very sick, but you can avoid getting sick by preventing mosquito bites!

8. What is **NOT** a good way to protect yourself from mosquito bites?

Carry around a frog to eat the mosquitoes! Frogs do eat mosquitoes, but it may be hard to carry one around all the time, and there are many more mosquitoes flying around than one frog can eat! There are some things you can do to protect yourself. When you are outside, have an

adult put insect repellent on you and wear long-sleeves and pants to cover your skin. Since most mosquitoes fly around more at night, staying indoors between sunset (dusk) and sunrise (dawn) can also help.

9. Where is a place that you can find around your house where mosquitoes might lay their eggs?

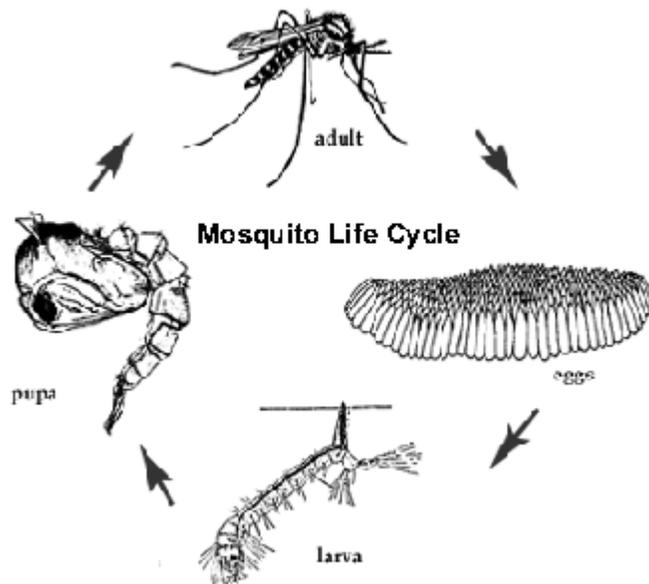
All of the above! Female mosquitoes lay their eggs on or near water. They like any place water collects from puddles, bird baths and old tires in your yard to swamps and ponds. You can help keep mosquitoes from laying eggs at your house by making sure your gutters are clean and removing water if it starts to collect anywhere.

10. True or false: Some adult mosquitoes live their whole life in only four days!

True! Other types of mosquitoes may live for as long as 2-3 months if weather conditions are favorable. Mosquitoes that hibernate over the winter as an adult can live for 6-8 months, but spend most of that time in hibernation.

11. Which is **NOT** one of the 4 stages of the mosquito life cycle?

Teenager! Mosquitoes go through 4 stages in their life cycle: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The first 3 stages of the life cycle tend to be very short – only about a week all together! The adult mosquito can live for several months.



12. True or false: Mosquitoes are not good for anything?

False! Even though mosquitoes are pests and can spread germs, they are an important part of the food chain. Many birds, bats, dragonflies, spiders, lizards, frogs and other animals eat the adults, and some fish eat the larvae.

More Mosquito Fun Facts!

- Mosquito means “little fly” in Spanish and Portuguese
- Mosquitoes can fly as fast as 1.5 miles per hour and can smell you from 60 feet away
- About 400,000 mosquitoes weigh a pound
- Some mosquito larvae can survive being frozen in ice
- Mosquitoes can travel up to 2-6 miles looking for blood and other food



Want more information on mosquitoes and how to protect yourself from mosquito bites? Check out the website for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at <http://www.mass.gov/dph/wnv/wnv1.htm>.