

Vocabulary List (Alphabetical)

abdomen- Part of the body that contains the digestive and reproductive organs.

adult- The fully developed mature form.

antenna- Sensory organ on the head for hearing and smell.

aquatic- Living in water.

carbon dioxide- Chemical compound that all animals exhale.

container)- (natural)- Specialized floodwater habitat used by some mosquitoes. A treehole is primary example.

container (man-made)- Specialized floodwater habitat used by some mosquitoes. Buckets, cans, and discarded tires are examples.

DEET- The chemical compound found in most mosquito repellents.

Diptera- Order of insects that has only two wings (one pair). Most other insect Orders have four wings (two pairs).

disease- Ill health as a result of being infected with a pathogen.

egg- The first stage in the life cycle.

embryo- The developmental stage found inside the egg.

encephalitis- The results of a virus attacking the brain of humans.

eyes- Visual organs on the head, composed of numerous separate lenses.

floodwater- Aquatic habitat characterized by fluctuating water levels.

food canal- Tube within the stylets that conducts blood from the skin to the mosquito's stomach.

head- Part of the body that contains the eyes and mouth.

host- The animal from which the mosquito takes a blood meal.

larva- The immature, wingless form that hatches from an egg. Its purpose is to eat and grow.

metamorphosis- The maturing process that involves changes in shape between hatching and becoming an adult.

molt- To shed the skin in order to grow.

pathogen- Any microorganism or virus that can cause disease.

proboscis- Elongated mouth of the mosquito, adapted for feeding on liquid.

pupa- The non-feeding stage in the life cycle during which the larva changes to the adult form.

raft- Cluster of eggs laid on the surface of permanent water.

repellent- A chemical capable of preventing mosquitoes from feeding on a host.

reproduction- The making of offspring.

saliva- Secretion injected into the skin when the mosquito bites. Contains anesthetics and anticoagulants to make blood feeding easier.

salivary canal- Tube within the stylets that conducts the saliva from the salivary gland into the skin.

siphon- Tube used by the larva to breathe air.

species- A unique group of animals, different from other groups.

stylets- Thin, sharp structures that penetrate the skin; part of the proboscis.

thorax- Part of the body that contains the legs and wings.

transmission cycle- The system in which a mosquito-transmitted pathogen is maintained. It consists of the pathogen, the mosquito, and the hosts that become infected.

trumpet- Tube used by the pupa to breathe air.

tumbler- Common name for the mosquito pupa.

vector- Animal, like a mosquito, that transmits a virus or parasite to another animal.

wiggler- Common name for the mosquito larva.