



It's All the Buzz

Creating a Pipe Cleaner Mosquito

Learners will enjoy designing and creating their own buzzing pipe cleaner mosquito. This art activity pairs well with the *Ode to a Proboscis: Literacy Connections Activity*. Learners may pair their pipe cleaner mosquito with the poem, song, or dramatic play they created in the *Ode to a Proboscis* activity to present to others.

Purpose

The purpose of this activity is to integrate creativity and art into the study of mosquito habitats. This activity is great for young learners, but can be enjoyed by all ages. It promotes creativity while reinforcing information about the basic anatomy of a mosquito.

Time

30 minutes

Materials

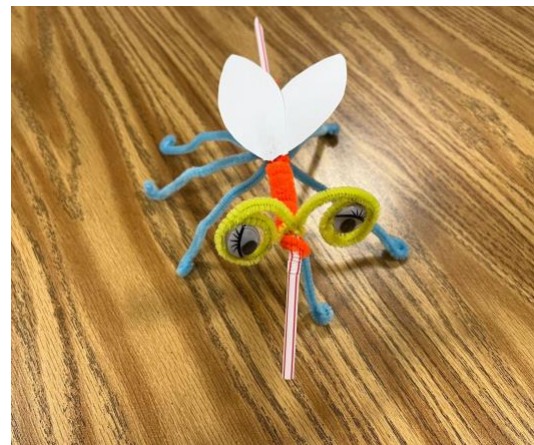
- glue sticks
- scissors
- 6 pipe cleaners per mosquito
- 1 flexible drinking straw per mosquito
- 2 googly eyes per mosquito
- scrap paper, tissue paper or coffee filters for wings

Safety

Younger learners may need assistance with cutting the drinking straws and glueing the googly eyes.

What to Do

1. Start with your straw. Wrap two pipe cleaners around the straw from behind the flex area back to two inches from the end of the straw.



2. Use 3 more pipe cleaners to create the legs. Twist 3 pipe cleaners together in the center and wrap them around the middle of the straw.
3. Cut the tip of the back end of the straw into a V shape.
4. Bend a pipe cleaner in half and coil both sides to create the eye sockets.
5. Glue googly eyes to the center of each coil and twist onto the body behind the flex area.
6. Cut two wings and glue to the top of the body.
7. To mimic a mosquito's buzzing sound, blow into the V-shaped slit and hum into the straw.

Questions for Review

1. How many legs do mosquitoes have?
2. What body part of the mosquito is made from the straw? What is its function?
3. Why do you think mosquitoes make a buzzing sound?

Modifications and Extensions

- Depending on the age range of your learners, you may wish to partner an older learner with a younger learner for the craft.
- Make a mosquito museum. Have students display their mosquitoes and make a corresponding sign with the mosquito's name, habitat, and one fascinating fact or caution statement about the dangers of this insect.