

Mosquito Hotspots

Directions

This activity is intended for grades 3 – 5.

Using copies of the provided illustration or photos of a yard containing natural and man-made containers, students use markers to circle the sources of standing water.

Discussion can include which sources should be drained, how often, and if there is anything they can do to prevent water from collecting (discussed in answer key chart).

A take-home activity is included on the back side of this activity to encourage students to share what they learn with an adult at home and take steps to reduce mosquito breeding habitats around the home.

If you are interested in reusing materials, you can laminate drawings or photos and use dry erase markers to circle the sources of standing water.

Supplies

- Copies of mosquito hotspots image
- Pens, pencils, or markers

Learning Objectives

- Identification of mosquito habitats
- Demonstrate personal protection methods
- Knowledge of mosquito biology and ecology

Discussion

Invite discussion of other containers around the house that could serve as mosquito breeding habitat, such as clogged gutters and pet bowls.

Emphasize prevention methods during discussion, such as:

- Drilling holes in unmounted tires and buckets to prevent them from collecting water
- Dumping out and replacing water from containers such as pet bowls and bird baths at least once per week to break the mosquito life cycle (remember, it takes two weeks for a mosquito to complete its life cycle)
- Unclogging gutters to prevent water from collecting
- Ensuring pool filters are working properly to keep the water moving (mosquitoes like stagnant water to breed)



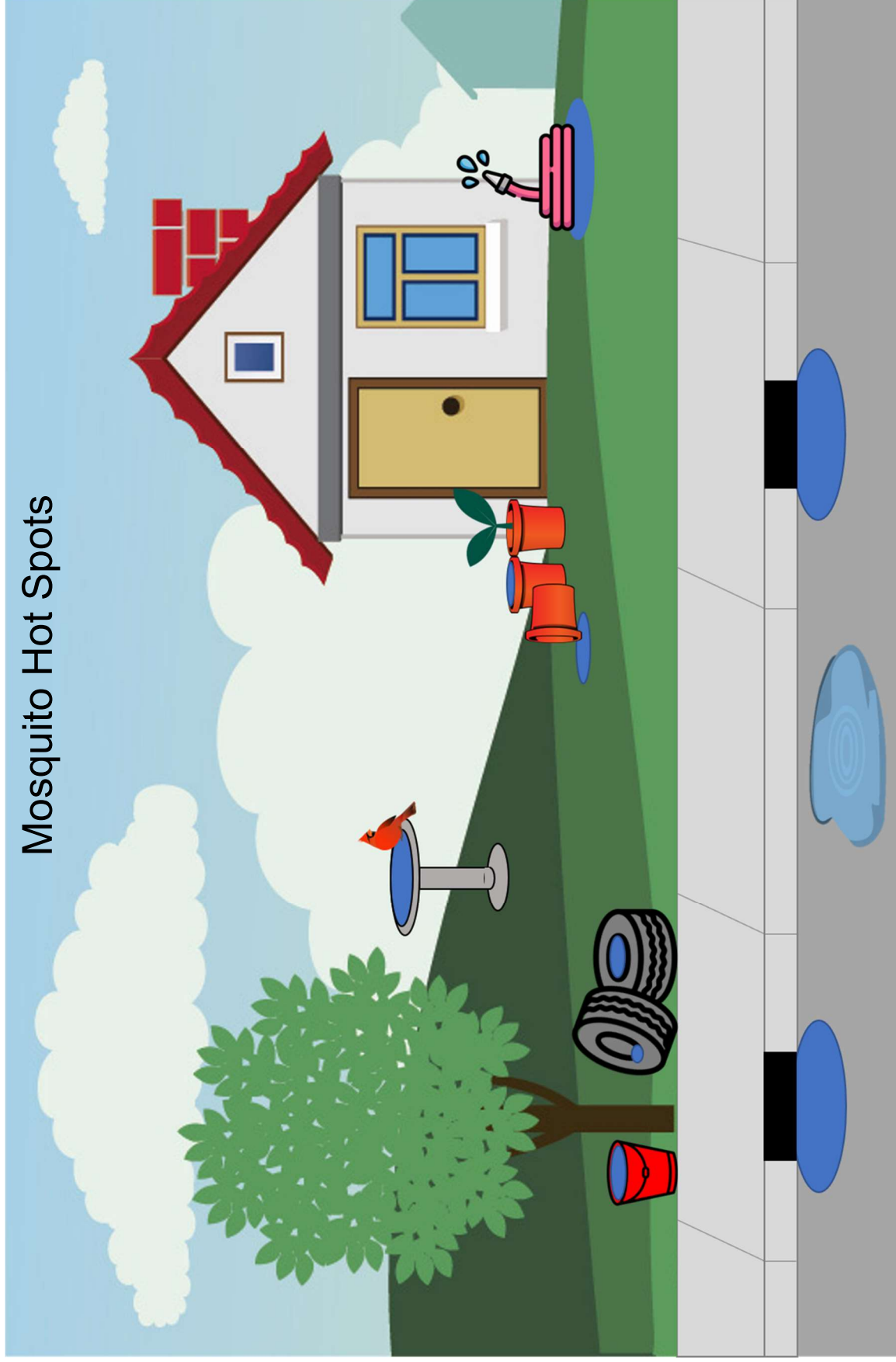
- Fixing screens in windows and doors that have rips or tears to prevent mosquitoes from being able to get inside the house

Answer Key

Mosquito Breeding Hotspot	Ways to help stay safe from mosquitoes
Bird bath	Empty and change water every week.
Bucket	Turn buckets over when not in use.
Tires	Dispose of old tires or drill holes in them so they cannot collect water.
Catch basin/storm drain	Encourage an adult to report clogged or overflowing storm drains to city authorities to fix.
Puddle in street	Have an adult sweep water into storm drain or away from pot hole to dry.
Flower pots	Overwatered potted plants can attract mosquitoes. Turn over unused pots or remove when not in use to prevent filling with water.
Leaking hose	Make sure hose is completely turned off after use. Try to drain hose of any water left inside.



Mosquito Hot Spots



Mosquitoes can breed in natural and man-made containers of water. Identify the hotspots where mosquitoes could breed. Can you suggest ways to get rid of these hotspots?

Mosquito Hot Spots Take-Home Activity

Directions: With the help of an adult, determine where the “mosquito breeding hot spots” are around your home. Draw the locations in the square below. Discuss with an adult how you can decrease the number of mosquito breeding sites around your home.

Draw and label mosquito hot spots around your home:

A large, empty square box with a black border, intended for the student to draw and label mosquito hot spots around their home.

Follow these steps to make sure mosquitoes don't breed in your backyard:

- **Dump It:** Dump water out of containers and objects
- **Store It:** Put unused items away
- **Throw It:** Throw away items that are not used