INVERTEBRATES: VECTORS

Vocabulary:

vectors- organisms that spread germs and diseases.

proliferation – wide spread; increase and breeding.

Organisms that spread germs and diseases are called **vectors**. Insects such as **flies**, **mosquitoes** and **cockroaches** transfer (carry) germs and diseases to human beings from infected places. When vectors feed, they come into contact with germs which they **carry about in their stomachs, or attached to the hairs on their legs and bodies**.

Mosquitoes transmit (spread) the germs that cause **dengue fever**. This happens when a mosquito sucks the blood of an infected person then puts this blood into a healthy person when it tries to take blood from that healthy person.

Mosquitoes must **lay their eggs in water**. Because of this, we can reduce their chance of producing young mosquitoes by removing empty containers and other items that trap water, by draining ponds and swamps and by spraying areas where they breed with insecticides.



Flies can only **take in food in liquid form** but they feed on anything including garbage, rotting food, faeces and dead bodies. They vomit on solid foods to turn them into liquids before sucking them up. When flies feed, germs stick to their bodies and if they land on our food, some of the germs drop off. When we eat this food, germs enter our bodies and make us sick. Flies lay their eggs in the substances they feed on. To prevent the increase in the fly population, we must reduce their chances of laying eggs. To do this, we must dispose of all garbage properly, disinfect all garbage containers regularly, cover food stuffs properly at all times and have dead bodies and litter removed responsibly by the **Ministry of Environmental Health**.



Cockroaches **live in damp, dark, dirty places**. They feed on almost anything including the food we eat and they spread germs and diseases in the same way that flies do.

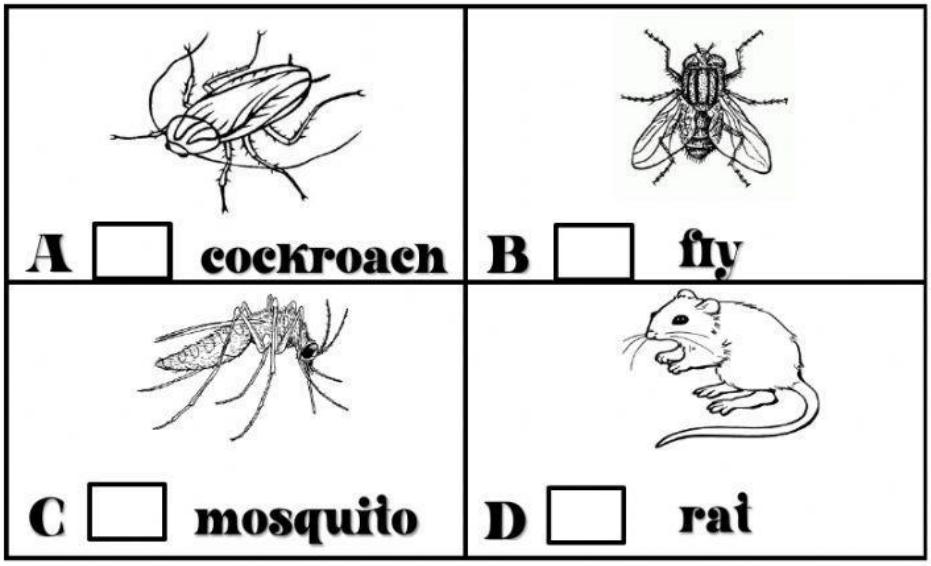


By keeping our environment clean, litter free, and disposing of garbage properly, we can prevent the breeding and **proliferation** of vectors.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DIRECTIONS: Read each question carefully. Use the notes to help answer the questions correctly

1. Which animal is **NOT** an invertebrate vector?



2. What are vectors?

_____ [1]

3. List **four (4)** ways to stop the ***proliferation*** of vectors.

i. _____ iii. _____ [5]

ii. _____ iv. _____

4. Flies, mosquitoes, and cockroaches are _____ [1] that spread germs or diseases.

5. Write the name of the vector that matches with each description.

a. live in damp, dark, dirty places _____

b. transmit the germs that cause dengue fever _____

c. lay their eggs in water _____

d. lay their eggs in the materials they feed on _____ [4]

6. We can prevent the breeding and **proliferation** of vectors.

What is the meaning of the term proliferation?

LIVEWORKSHEETS