Lesson 4

Vectors

Organisms that spread germs and diseases are called vectors. **Insects** such as flies, mosquitoes, and cockroaches transfer germs and diseases to human beings from infected sites. 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 the germs that cause **Dengue fever**. This happens when a mosquito sucks the blood of an infected person then puts this infected blood into a healthy person as 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 an 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 foodstuffs properly at all times and have dead bodies and refuse 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

Date: _____

1. What are vectors? [1]

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2. Name THREE animals that belong to the vector group. [3]

_____ _____ _____

3. What does the germ of mosquitoes cause? [1]

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4. Where do mosquitoes lay their eggs? [1]

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5. Name the form in which flies take their food. [1]

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6. Name FOUR things that flies feed on. [4]

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7. Describe the place where cockroaches live. [2]

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8. Explain how the breeding of mosquitoes can be reduced. Write TWO ways. [2]

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9. As good stewards, we must help keep the environment clean. Explain how the breeding of flies can be reduced. Write TWO ways. [2]

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LIVEWORKSHEETS