

LESSON 5: HOW TO CATCH A TIGER



By now, you've learned that anything that holds water for 7 days or more can produce mosquitoes. To get an idea of how serious these mosquitoes can be, let's solve this simple word problem. If a female mosquito lives for 150 days, and lays 250 eggs in your backyard every 15 days, How many eggs will this single female produce in your backyard?

This is just from a single mosquito! Just imagine how many biting mosquitoes will be in your backyard if each one of those grow up and lays even more eggs! In order to find a solution to the problem, we need to recognize the problem (Step 1). And the problem is that backyard containers produce mosquitoes. Now let's work together to solve this problem..

Step two: gather data: In the next 5 minutes, walk around the classroom and find anything that might hold water for several days. In the space below, start making a list. I'll get you started.

Fish tank

Chalk holder in front of chalk board

Discuss your results with the rest of the class. Now that you get the idea, make a list of possible containers you might find in your backyard?

Bird bath

Pet dish

Step 3: finding a solution to the problem: Choose any 3 habitats from the first page (classroom or backyard). For each habitat, make a list of how you could prevent mosquitoes (*Remember: water + 7 days = mosquitoes*)

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

Step 4: Testing your solution: Choose one of the habitats from step 3.

Let's test the solution by answering the following questions:

(1) Which method is the easiest?

(2) Which method is the least expensive?

(3) Which methods prevent water from collecting in the container?

(4) Which methods prevent 7 days of standing water?

(5) Which methods are the safest?

Step 5: Selecting the best solution: Based on the answers from step 4, which is the best method for preventing mosquitoes from using the selected container type?

Step 6: Implementing the solution.

Now that you have learned how to reduce mosquitoes in backyard containers, don't forget to check your own backyard for containers. Some good tips to follow: Throw away trash, store your toys inside, change water in birdbaths at least once a week, and check your yard weekly for standing water. Good luck!