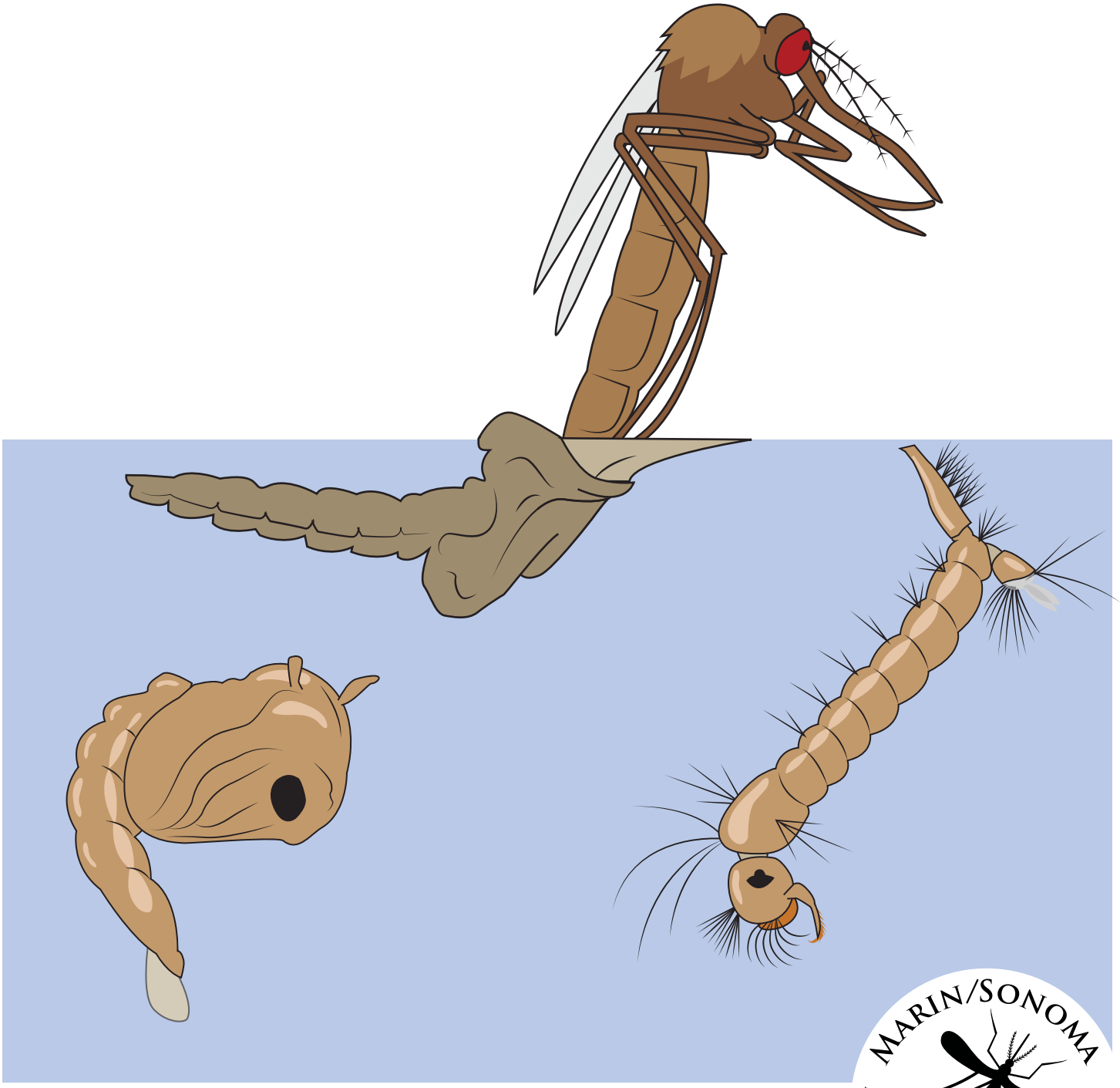
How Mosquitoes Grow

Observation Journal

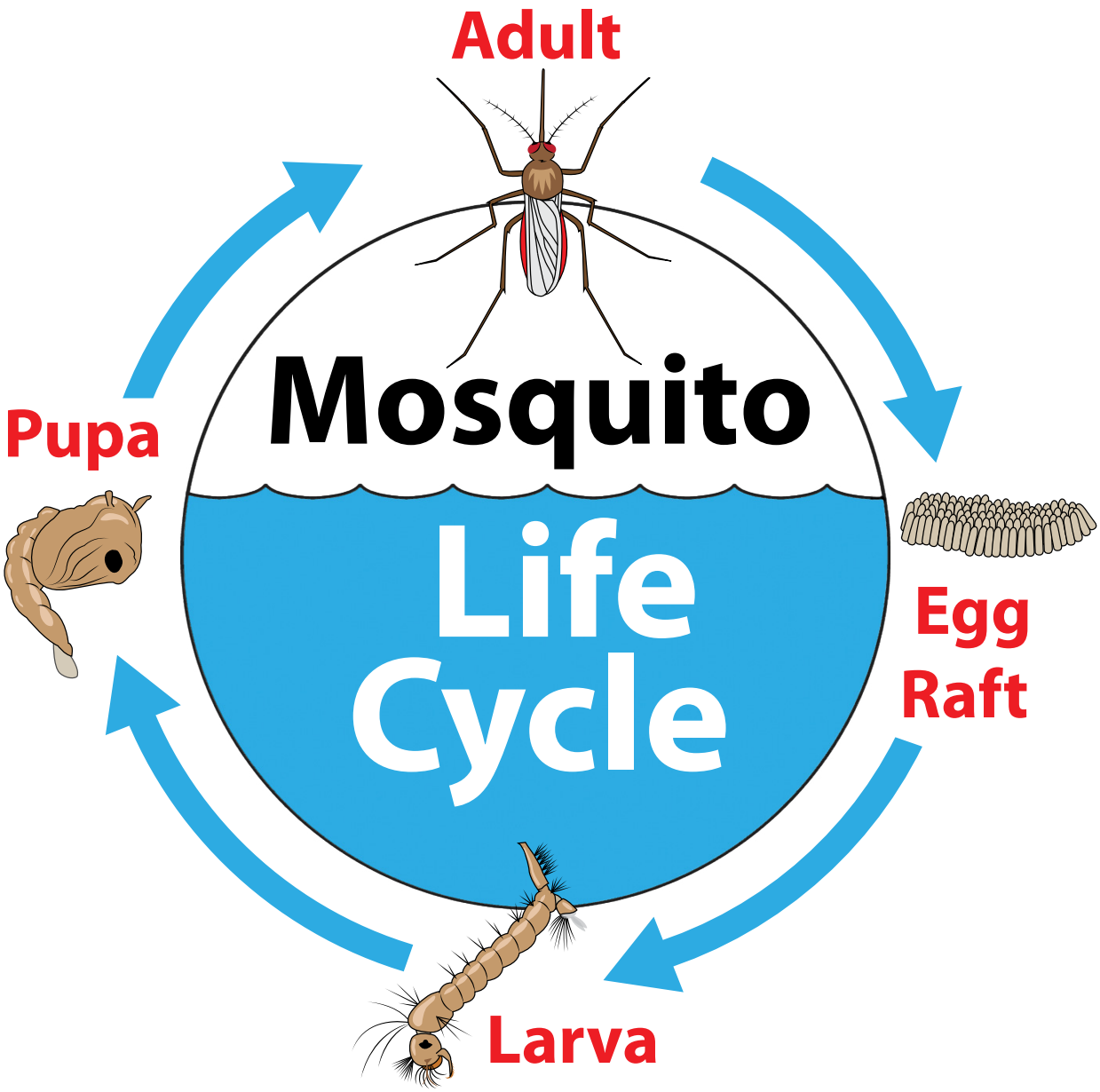


Name: _____

MARIN/SONOMA MOSQUITO & VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

Instructions

- This journal is designed to be used with a mosquito life cycle kit.
- The mosquitoes will remain in the class for two weeks and during this time students chart the growth of the mosquitoes.
- Specific directions are provided at the top of each activity.



- Make sure you know the four stages of the mosquito life cycle.

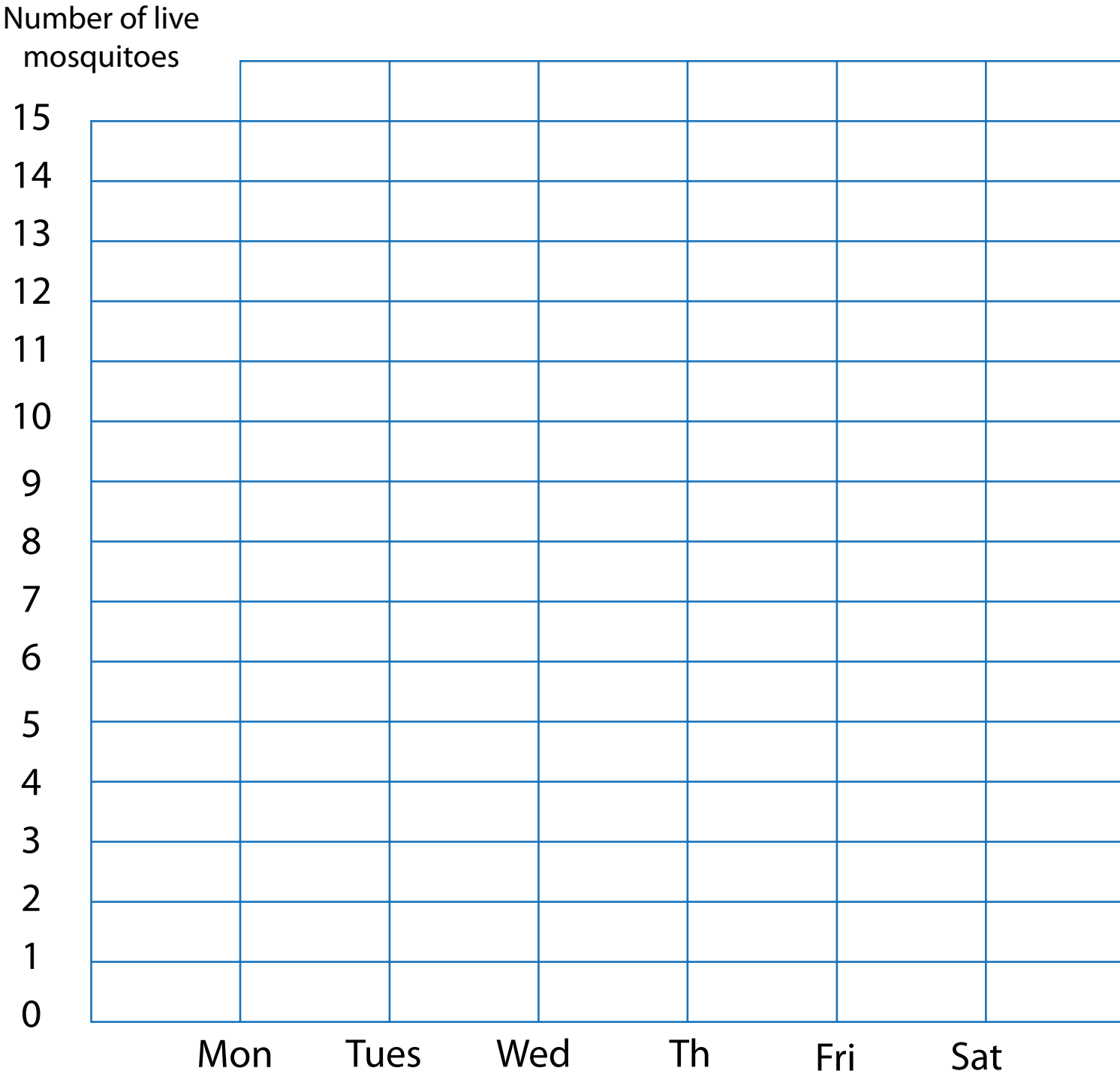
Complete this activity during the first week

Date: _____

Draw what you see in the mosquito cage in the space below.

Mosquito Growth

- Each day, count the number of mosquitoes in the cage.
- Make a blue dot on the graph for the number of larvae, a green
- Connect dots of the same color to see how the mosquitoes in



Date _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Graph

dot for pupae and a red dot for adults.

change over time.

Key

Larvae

Pupae

Adults

Sun Mon Tues Wed Th Fri

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

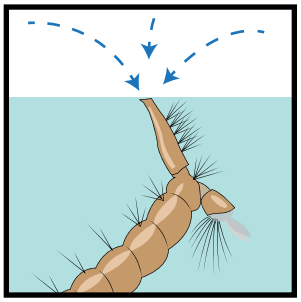
Use the clues to figure out what a mosquito **larva** needs in order to grow...

(The letters above the circled numbers will be used on page 10)

A larva cannot survive outside of...

_ _ _ e _

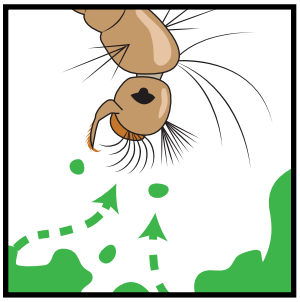
⑦



A larva comes to the surface to get...

_ x _ _ _ _

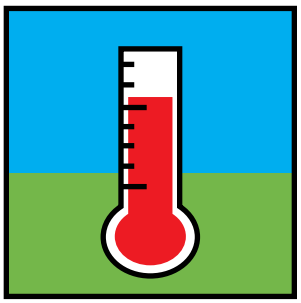
③



A larva uses its mouth hairs to filter out tiny bits of...

_ _ _ d

①



In order to digest food, a larva needs this from the sun...

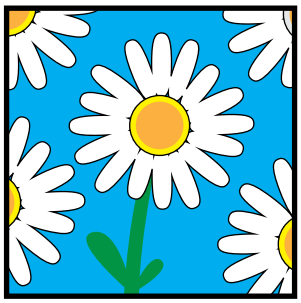
_ _ _ _ t _

⑩ ⑥

(if you get stuck, look in the word jar for clues on page 10)

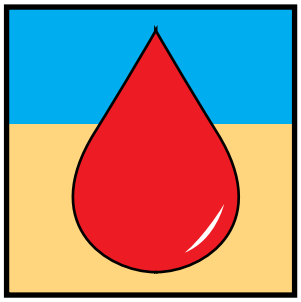
Use the clues to figure out what **adult** mosquitoes need to survive and reproduce...

(The letters above the circled numbers will be used on page 10)



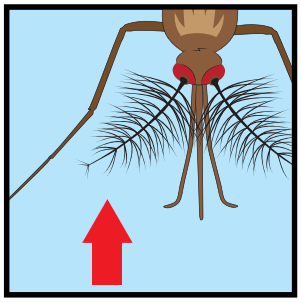
This source of food provides energy to fly...

_ _ **c** _ _ _
⑧



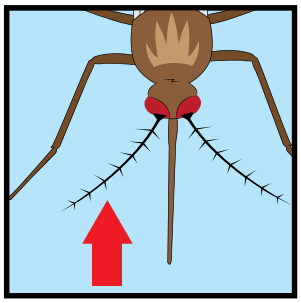
Females need this to help their eggs grow...

_ _ _ **o** _
②



Males use this sense to find their mates...

_ _ _ **r** _ _ _
⑪ ⑤



Females use this sense to find hosts...

_ _ _ **l** _
④ ⑨

(if you get stuck, look in the word jar for clues on page 10)

Complete the following activities towards the end of the second week

Date: _____

Draw what you see in the mosquito cage in the space below.

Results

Look at the Mosquito Growth Graph on pages 3 & 4 to answer the following questions:

1. How many mosquitoes were alive on day 1?

Larvae: _____

Pupae: _____

Adults: _____

Total mosquitoes: _____

2. How many mosquitoes are still alive today?

Larvae: _____

Pupae: _____

Adults: _____

Total mosquitoes: _____

3. Did any mosquitoes die? If so, how many?

_____

Results (Continued)

4. When a mosquito larva grows, it sheds its skin. The old skin splits, and the larva wiggles out. Draw a mosquito larva shedding its old skin.

Look into the cage and see if you can find some shed skins!

5. How many of the adult mosquitoes were females? _____

6. Mosquitoes can lay lots of eggs! Imagine that the female mosquitoes in the cage were growing in someone's backyard and survived long enough to lay 200 eggs each. Multiply 200 by the number of females to find out how many eggs that would be!

Number of eggs: 200

Total number of females: X ☐

Total eggs: ☐

That's a lot of eggs!

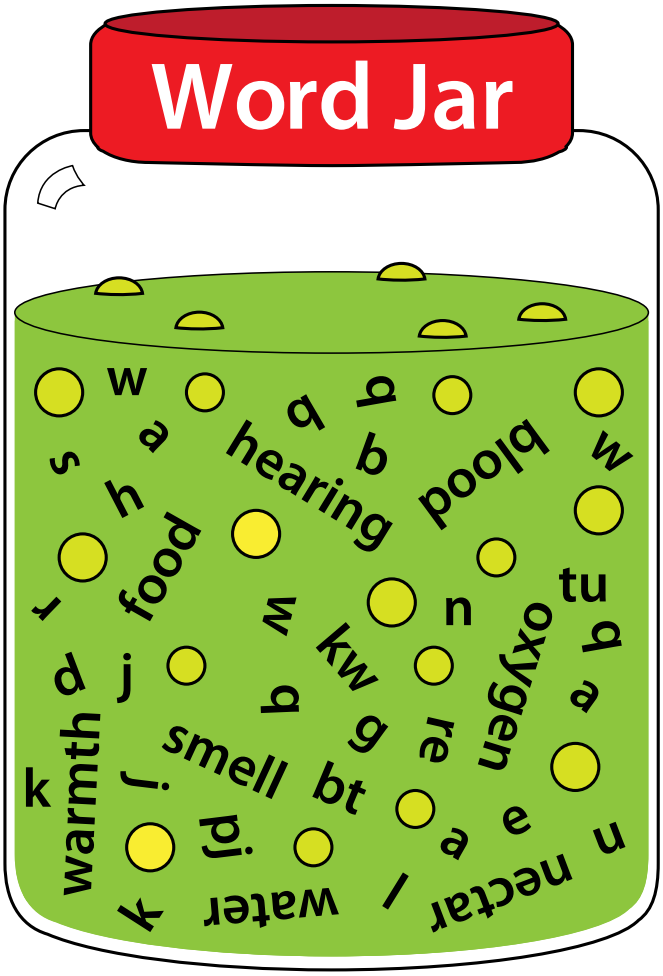
? ? Mystery Puzzle ? ?

Use the letters above the circled numbers on pages 5 & 6 to solve the surprise answer below.

How mosquitoes grow and change...

							P					
⑥	③	⑦	⑩	⑨	①	⑧		⑪	②	④	⑤	④

If you can't figure out an answer on page 5 or 6, you might find some useful words hidden in this jar...



Dear Parents,

Your child has been learning about mosquitoes for the past two weeks. This program teaches students to recognize all 4 stages of the mosquito life cycle, and allows children to observe how quickly tiny mosquito larvae can grow up into adult mosquitoes. With this knowledge, your child can help identify potential places in your neighborhood where mosquitoes may grow.

Unfortunately, mosquitoes can be more than just a nuisance. They are vectors, meaning that some mosquitoes have the ability to spread certain diseases such as West Nile virus. Please visit our website at www.msmosquito.com to learn more. The website also includes information related to:

- Free services available to residents of Marin and Sonoma counties
- Information about other vectors (such as ticks, fleas, rats and yellowjackets)
- Information about vector-borne diseases (such as West Nile virus, Lyme disease, dog heartworm, and others)

Thank you,

Eric Engh
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call **1.800.231.3236** or **707.285.2200**
or visit us online at **www.msmosquito.com**

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