

Mosquitoes bite some people more than others

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Why are some people bitten by mosquitoes more than other people? A website has discovered some answers to this question. Researchers from the site Medical News Today (MNT) looked into what parts of us mosquitoes like.

They found out some interesting things. A professor of public health, Dr Jagdish Khubchandani, told MNT what he thought mosquitoes liked. He said: "Studies suggest that pregnant women, people with high body temperature and sweat...and those with darker skin could be [bigger targets]." Blood type could be another factor. Studies found that mosquitoes are not so attracted to people with blood group A. However, they find people with blood group O a little tastier.

Medical News Today reported that there are over 3,500 species of mosquitoes worldwide. Only a fraction of these bite people. Only the females of the species bite. They need blood to provide protein for their eggs. Mosquito bites are an annoyance for most people. The bite becomes itchy and can swell. However, millions of people have died from the diseases mosquitoes spread. These include malaria, dengue fever, West Nile virus, yellow fever and Zika, among others. To avoid getting bitten, it is best to cover your skin with clothing. It is also a good idea to use insect repellent (day and night, indoors and outdoors) on any exposed skin. Sleeping under a mosquito net can also reduce the chances of being bitten.

Sources: medicalnewstoday.com / cnet.com / gov.uk

Writing

We should never kill a mosquito because it's part of nature. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

mosquitoes / website / public health / interesting / pregnant / body / temperature / worldwide / fraction / bite / protein / annoyance / itchy / malaria / skin / insect / skin

True / False

- 1) A mosquito website found out why mosquitoes like different people. T / F
- 2) Mosquitoes like to sting people with a high body temperature. T / F
- 3) Lighter-skinned people get bitten more than darker-skinned people. T / F
- 4) Mosquitoes like people with blood group A the best. T / F
- 5) Most species of mosquito do not bite. T / F
- 6) Only male mosquitoes bite us. T / F
- 7) Mosquitoes spread Zika virus. T / F
- 8) The article says we should wear insect repellent indoors. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. discovered | a. research |
| 2. like | b. nuisance |
| 3. studies | c. more delicious |
| 4. target | d. prey |
| 5. tastier | e. give |
| 6. worldwide | f. bug |
| 7. provide | g. found |
| 8. annoyance | h. likelihood |
| 9. insect | i. (be) fond of |
| 10. chances | j. globally |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of mosquitoes?
- b) How do you feel when a mosquito buzzes around your ear?
- c) Why do mosquitoes like some people more than others?
- d) What do you do when a mosquito bites you?
- e) What is the purpose of mosquitoes?
- f) What three adjectives best describe mosquitoes?
- g) What do you know about mosquitoes?
- h) Why does blood group change the taste of blood?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. discovered some answers | a. skin |
| 2. pregnant | b. a little tastier |
| 3. those with darker | c. of being bitten |
| 4. mosquitoes are not so attracted to people | d. of these bite people |
| 5. they find people with blood group O | e. to this question |
| 6. there are over 3,500 species of mosquitoes | f. annoyance |
| 7. Only a fraction | g. spread |
| 8. Mosquito bites are an | h. with blood group A |
| 9. diseases mosquitoes | i. women |
| 10. reduce the chances | j. worldwide |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of there being 3,500 species of mosquitoes?
- How annoying are mosquitoes?
- Are mosquitoes useful in any way?
- What do you do when a mosquito bite itches?
- What do you know about malaria?
- What do you think of insect repellent?
- What questions would you like to ask a mosquito expert?

Spelling

- A sroeorfps of public health
- nargtepn women
- people with high body eetrarutepm
- those with darker skin could be bigger tegrtas
- mosquitoes are not so tdtcreata
- people with dolob group A
- 3,500 peiscse of mosquitoes
- Only a facitron of these bite people
- provide rpintoe for their eggs
- Mosquito bites are an cennnyaoa
- aivdo getting bitten
- a good idea to use insect eptrnelle

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. g | 2. i | 3. a | 4. d | 5. c |
| 6. j | 7. e | 8. b | 9. f | 10. h |

Role Play

Role A – Mosquitoes

You think mosquitoes are the worst insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): moths, slugs or stink bugs.

Role B – Moths

You think moths are the worst insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): mosquitoes, slugs or stink bugs.

Role C – Slugs

You think slugs are the worst insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): moths, mosquitoes or stink bugs.

Role D – Sting Bugs

You think stink bugs are the worst insects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their insects aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): moths, slugs or mosquitoes.

Speaking – Bugs

Rank these with your partner. Put the most worst bugs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| • Mosquitoes | • Centipedes |
| • Cockroaches | • Slugs |
| • Stink bugs | • Spiders |
| • Flies | • Moths |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 F | 2 T | 3 F | 4 F | 5 T | 6 F | 7 T | 8 T |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.