



WATER-BASED ACTIVITIES

Facing a particularly hot day? Use some of these great water-based activities to cool off and keep the learning and fun on.

WATER-BASED MOSQUITO TAG

Place a few inches of water in a tub or wading pool. Several yards away, hang a mosquito bed net near the ground. One player, the “it mosquito,” squats in the tub. The other players run around the tub. When the facilitator yells, “It’s nighttime!” the mosquito jumps out of the tub and tries to “bite” the other players by tagging them. The other players run to get under the net where they are safe. However, the net can only protect four players! Players tagged by the mosquito get malaria and must sit down. Play ends when the mosquito gives malaria to everyone.

Teaching Point: Sleeping under an insecticide-treated long-lasting bed net can protect from mosquito bites that cause malaria. You can help protect someone in Africa by giving \$10, which covers the price of a bed net, training in its use, and education about malaria.

LARVA SCOOP

Fill a wading pool with water. Float 36 (or more!) foam S-shaped “packing peanuts” in the water. Provide two small strainers or nets used in fish tanks and two buckets. Children pair up. When the facilitator says, “Go!” scoop the mosquito larvae (packing peanuts) out of the water and dump them in your bucket as quickly as you can before they become adult mosquitoes. It’s difficult to stop mosquitoes from breeding, so keep one hand behind your back at all times! The player who gets the most larvae into his/her bucket before the facilitator says, “Stop!” wins.

Teaching Point: Malaria is a disease caused by mosquitoes – which breed in standing water. It is important to get rid of standing water as well as the eggs, larvae and pupae before they grow into mosquitoes that bite!

CLEAN THIS WATER!

Fill two tubs with equal amounts of water. Stir in some dirt. Provide two small containers (e.g., cups or little buckets). Form two teams. Teams must empty the tub of the standing water in which mosquitoes can breed. Each team lines up at their starting line 10 yards from their tub. The facilitator calls, “Clean it up!” Then, each player runs to the tub, fills their container, runs back across the line, dumps the water, hands the container to the next player, and goes to the end of the line. The team that empties their tub of water first wins.

Teaching Point: Mosquitoes that carry the deadly disease malaria breed in standing water that is often dirty. To prevent malaria, people need to remove standing water.

Thanks to ELCA Malaria Campaign, 2015

<http://www.scoutsagainstmalaria.org.uk/>