

MALARIA MADNESS MOSQUITO RACE!

Many things say STOP to mosquitoes as well. Challenge your children to try to survive a day in the life of a mosquito by racing to accomplish these tasks. This is meant to be mostly a fun and silly activity for children but it also opens a conversation about creation and how God called all things good, even mosquitoes!

Materials Needed:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balloons | <input type="checkbox"/> A shoe box |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpicks | <input type="checkbox"/> Ping pong balls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mosquito Net | <input type="checkbox"/> Optional prizes for completing the race |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tomato juice | <input type="checkbox"/> Stop watch if you are timing the children to see who does it the fastest' |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dixie cups | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Straws | |



Set Up - use a large open space for this

1. Hang up a mosquito net or drape it across chairs or across a table
2. Clear off a large space on a wall
3. Blow up balloons with small pieces of paper in them that say either
 - a. "You're Healthy - Keep Going" or
 - b. "Got Malaria - Start Over!"
 You can decide how many of each phrase you want to use. A good ratio is about 1/3 malaria and 2/3 healthy.
4. Tape balloons to the wall using painters tape (this keeps the tape from ruining the walls).
5. Find a shoe box and cut a small hole in the bottom of it (just a little bit larger than a ping pong ball) then put 10-15 ping pong balls in the box (note that wadded up pieces of paper work well, too, if you don't have ping pong balls around).
6. Pour a small amount of tomato juice (or cranberry juice, or fruit punch) into Dixie cups and set straws by them. Set these up on a table.
7. Spread the challenges throughout the rooms to make a sort of course that the children will go through.

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MALARIA MADNESS MOSQUITO RACE! (CONTINUED)

Instructions

Life can be hard for a mosquito; there are many challenges and dangers that they face on a daily basis. Let's see how well you would do as a mosquito!

STATION 1: Get through the net!

The first challenge that mosquitoes face is getting past the nets and screens people put up to keep them out.

Challenge: Crawl under the mosquito net without letting it touch you!

STATION 2: Bite someone!

Mosquitoes don't mean to get people sick; it happens when they bite someone who is already sick. Then the mosquitoes can pass malaria on to other people.

Challenge: Take a toothpick and pick the person you want to bite (the balloon wall) but look out! If you bite the wrong person (someone infected with malaria) you need to start again.

STATION 3: Suck that blood! Once a Mosquito has picked the right person to bite, they get their meal.

Challenge: Pretend you are a mosquito and use the straw to quickly suck up the tomato juice - but do it quickly or you might get swatted! (Children who refuse to try the juice get "swatted" after a period of time - normally 45 seconds or so to keep things moving - if they get swatted they have to do a silly song, or dance then move on to the last challenge.)

Station 4: Reproduce! Finally, mosquitoes have babies by laying their eggs in small pools of water.

Challenge: Pretend you are going to be a mommy or daddy mosquito and lay five eggs (children do this by holding the shoe box of ping pong balls behind their back and then wiggling and jumping around until they have shaken five balls or eggs out of the box).

**Congratulate children
on a job well done!**

PROCESSING THE ACTIVITY:

What is it like trying to get through all these challenges? Was it easy or hard to be a mosquito? Read Genesis 1:24-25. What does it mean that God made creeping things that creep upon the ground and called them good? What might be the reason for mosquitoes? Has this changed your mind at all about mosquitoes? Read Genesis 1:26. What does it mean to "have dominion" over something? (Dominion is not the same as domination; dominion is about caring for things. "Stewards" or "stewardship" is another good word for this.) How might supporting the work of the ELCA Malaria Campaign be about dominion over mosquitoes rather than dominating mosquitoes?

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