



What's annoying to you is deadly to them



Overview

To us in the United States, mosquitoes are unwelcome guests to our outdoor activities, crashing our campsites, backyards and ball fields. Their pestering bites leave us with small bumps and cause us to feel itchy.

To others in the world, particularly in Africa, mosquitoes are killers. Malaria is a disease that is caused by parasites, but it is transmitted by mosquitoes. When the parasite is spread to people, then a mosquito bite no longer is just a mosquito bite. It can make people experience high fevers, shaking, chills and nausea. When left untreated, malaria can even cause deaths. A lot of deaths.

Send a net.
Save a life.



These numbers tell a sad story:

★ **500** Nearly 500 million people are infected each year by malaria. ★ **1** More than 1 million of those people end up dying from the disease. ★ **90** Of these deaths, 90 percent occur in Africa, where the disease is a leading killer of children. Even those who survive often are faced with poor physical and mental development. ★ **30** Every 30 seconds – the length of time of a typical TV commercial – a child dies from this disease. That adds up to nearly 3,000 malaria deaths a day. ★ **25** Every day, 25 million pregnant women in Africa become infected with malaria. This not only affects their health but also the health of their babies, far too often causing a life to be lost before it even gets started. ★ **12** Malaria places a tremendous strain on the health care system in Africa, and it costs the continent an estimated \$12 billion a year. People miss work because they are sick themselves from malaria or they are taking care of a loved one who is ill.

This story, however, doesn't have to end so sadly for so many. The good news in all of this is that malaria is both preventable and treatable. One of the most simple and cost-effective ways to prevent malaria is through the use of insecticide-treated bed nets.



Send a net. Save a life.

“We need nets. Not hoop nets, soccer nets or lacrosse nets. Not New Jersey Nets or dot-nets or clarinets. Mosquito nets.”

With these words in *Sports Illustrated* in 2006, acclaimed sports columnist Rick Reilly helped launch “*Nothing But Nets*,” a campaign of the United Nations Foundation that works with international partners to distribute bed nets to the most vulnerable people in Africa.

With his compelling, compassionate story, Reilly, now of ESPN, increased the awareness of malaria – and how something as simple as a bed net can fight off this massive killer. “See, nearly 3,000 kids die every day in Africa from malaria,” Reilly wrote. “And according to the World Health Organization, transmission of the disease would be reduced by 60 percent with the use of mosquito nets and prompt treatment for the infected.”

In the first two years of the program, *Nothing But Nets* distributed more than 2 million life-saving nets to people in Africa. But there’s more work to be done, and that’s where we come in. The Boy Scouts of America are always looking for ways to extend a helping hand, whether it’s to someone next door or on another continent. Scouting, after all, is about promoting citizenship in our local, national and global communities.

As part of our 100th Anniversary Year of Celebration campaign, we have teamed with *Nothing But Nets* to spread the word about helping people around the world. We are looking to inform people about the malaria crisis in Africa and how they can be part of the solution. We want to educate them about the power of one net, which can cover a family of four for up to five years. And we are planning to stir interest in the UN Foundation’s *Nothing But Nets* campaign and drive people to its Web site (www.NothingButNets.net) for a guide on how we can help prevent malaria and make the world a better place.

By working with *Nothing But Nets* and its global partners, the Boy Scouts of America will help spread a simple but powerful message:

Send a net. Save a life.



Scouting is about promoting citizenship



Getting Started

Scouting's connection to Africa dates back to when Lord Baden-Powell served on a military mission there. Scouting's founder loved Africa and took the outdoor skills he acquired there back to England. That's part of the reason why we were captivated by the efforts of *Nothing But Nets*, a campaign that has distributed more than 2 million life-saving nets to people in Africa to prevent malaria. The Boy Scouts of America are always looking for ways to extend a helping hand, whether it's to someone next door or on another continent. Scouting, after all, is about promoting citizenship in our local, national and global communities.

Participating in this service project counts toward your A Year of Celebration, A Century of Making a Difference awards. Please take a minute to check out the activity sheets found on Scouting.org/100years. Complete any activity or combination of activities to count toward your 100th Anniversary Service award.

By teaming up with *Nothing But Nets*, we will strengthen our core values and become better global citizens. The first step in doing this is to get the word out that malaria kills and bed nets save lives. Encourage your pack, troop or crew to be creative when it comes to spreading awareness. Here are some ways to get those creative juices flowing.

Educate

1. Discover the history of malaria at <http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/history/index.htm>, then discuss the aspects that are most compelling to you.
2. Have everyone do a search for malaria on the Web and read an article from the past six months. In particular, it might be helpful to search the archives of the *The New York Times*' (<http://www.nytimes.com/>). The group members can share their stories and talk about the ways you think journalists best capture their audience when writing about malaria.
3. Watch the PBS documentary "Malaria: Fever Wars" (available at <http://www.shoppbs.org/sm-pbs-malaria-fever-wars-dvd--pi-2231958.html>). Then, conduct a discussion and share reactions.

Discuss

Once your group gets up to speed on malaria, ask these questions to stimulate conversation:

- ★ What was the article/video trying to accomplish? What was the main message you got from it?
- ★ What were the most important issues that were addressed?
- ★ What surprised you?
- ★ What solutions were outlined?
- ★ Was there anything that confused you?
- ★ And, most important, how can we spread our newfound knowledge about malaria to others?



Save a Life ... Pass It On



Hard facts

★ Malaria ...

- ... is caused by the parasite Plasmodium, which is transmitted by mosquitoes, who pass it on to humans. The infection is only spread by a specific type of female mosquito that only bites at night.
- ... causes flulike symptoms: fever, chills, headaches, muscle pain, fatigue. If not treated properly, it can cause kidney failure, seizures, disorientation, loss of consciousness and even death.
- ... is serious. Those people who contract malaria usually begin showing

symptoms anywhere from 10 days to four months after being infected, though in some cases, people don't start feeling ill until a year after being infected.

- ... occurs in more than 100 countries and territories, and 40 percent of the world's population lives in malaria-endemic regions.
- ... is most threatening to pregnant women and children because they have weaker immune systems.
- ... is the No. 1 killer of refugees in Africa.

FAQs

★ We're glad you asked ...

- Q** Why is the malaria problem in Africa so concerning to the Boy Scouts of America?
- A** *Because we pride ourselves in being good global citizens and Nothing But Nets is making a real difference when it comes to fighting malaria in Africa. Nearly 3,000 kids die each day because of this disease. But we can all do something to change that statistic.*

- Q** What does *Nothing But Nets* do?
- A** *Nothing But Nets works with its global partners to distribute bed nets to the most vulnerable people in Africa.*
- Q** Why bed nets?
- A** *Because they help in two big ways. Bed nets keep mosquitoes away from people while they sleep, and because malaria-carrying mosquitoes only bite at night, they reduce the spread of malaria. Also, they are treated with an insecticide that kills mosquitoes when they land on the netting.*



Nets are an effective, affordable way to combat the disease. There isn't yet a malaria vaccine.

ExxonMobil, Sports Illustrated, Time Inc., United Methodist Church and Vh1, to name a few.

Q Who do the bed nets help?

A ***Nothing But Nets works closely with global partners such as UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to get these nets to the people who need them most. These partners are experts at distributing health supplies such as bed nets. Children, pregnant women and refugees are specifically targeted to receive bed nets because of their high rates of becoming ill or dying from the disease.***

Q How are the bed nets distributed?

A ***Working with UNICEF, WHO and the UNHCR, the Nothing But Nets campaign is able to fund the cost to purchase and distribute the bed nets, as well as educate the recipients on their use. In some instances, bed nets are distributed as a part of an integrated health campaign, when children under the age of five are also vaccinated against measles and given other health interventions. In other instances, the bed nets are distributed to individuals door to door. This is often the case in refugee camps.***

Q Who are some of the other partners of *Nothing But Nets*?

A ***The National Basketball Association's NBA Cares, Major League Soccer 's MLS W.O.R.K.S.,***

Q Does a single net make that much of a difference?

A ***You bet. Some nets can cover the sleeping area for a family of four, and they can last up to five years.***

Q What's the history behind *Nothing But Nets*?

A ***Nothing But Nets was created by the United Nations Foundation in 2006. It was inspired by a column written by Rick Reilly in Sports Illustrated, in which Rick asked his readers to donate for a bed net. Thousands of people responded, and the UN Foundation decided to build on that momentum and launched the Nothing But Nets campaign. In its first two years, the campaign distributed 2 million bed nets in Africa.***

Q Where can I read Reilly's *Nothing But Nets* column?

A ***Here's the link online: http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/2006/writers/rick_reilly/04/25/reilly0501/index.html***

Q What are the Boy Scouts of America trying to do?

A ***We are looking to raise awareness in our communities about the malaria problem in Africa and what Nothing But Nets is doing to fight it. We want to drive as many people as possible to www.NothingButNets.net. Together, we can cover a continent.***



Resources

★ Where else to go to keep you in the know

These Web site links can help you with your projects to spread the word about *Nothing But Nets* – and stop the spread of malaria.

Check out *Nothing But Nets* on these popular Web sites:

MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/nothingbutbednets>

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nothingbutnets>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/nothingbutnets>

Sites to help you with a mapping project:

Mapping the risk of malaria in Africa:
<http://www.mara.org.za/>

A site to help you with an international pen pal project:

The Kids' Space Connection:
<http://www.ks-connection.org/>

Sites to help you write children's stories or books to raise the awareness of malaria:

Teenagers tell stories of malaria: <http://www.planusa.org/contentmgr/showdetails.php/id/170334>

The life cycle of malaria:
http://www.cdc.gov/malaria/biology/life_cycle.htm

Sites to help you reach out to civic leaders:

Setting up a free petition: www.thepetitionsite.com

Engaging Government Officials:
<http://ysa.org/Portals/0/PDF%20Documents/tk2007pt8.pdf>



Get To Work



Once you get up to speed on the seriousness of the malaria problem in Africa, you can get started on becoming a part of the solution by following one or more of these nine ways to raise awareness:



Make malaria maps



Activity 1

A map is a good way to visually show how widespread malaria is in Africa. Once created, these maps can be used in presentations, displayed in your community or shared with students and teachers at local schools.

Cub Scouts can color a map of Africa. The maps can be color-coded to show all the different countries located in Africa or show the areas that are most affected by malaria.

Boy Scouts can research malaria and Africa by using the resources listed in this toolkit or by going online or visiting their local library. They can draw a map that represents the diverse types of people, cultures and regions that are affected the most.

Adult leaders and alumni can work with members of a troop to develop the maps and assist them in promoting and distributing the maps once they are completed.

Did you know ...

Nothing But Nets has distributed bed nets to 15 different countries throughout Africa, including 855,000 nets in the country of Cote d'Ivoire alone.







Community education project No. 1



Activity 3

Share what you have learned about malaria and *Nothing But Nets* with your family, friends and community members.

Cub Scouts can draw and color pictures associated with malaria and *Nothing But Nets*, such as mosquitoes, nets and families. They can then show their picture to friends and family and tell them why they made their picture.

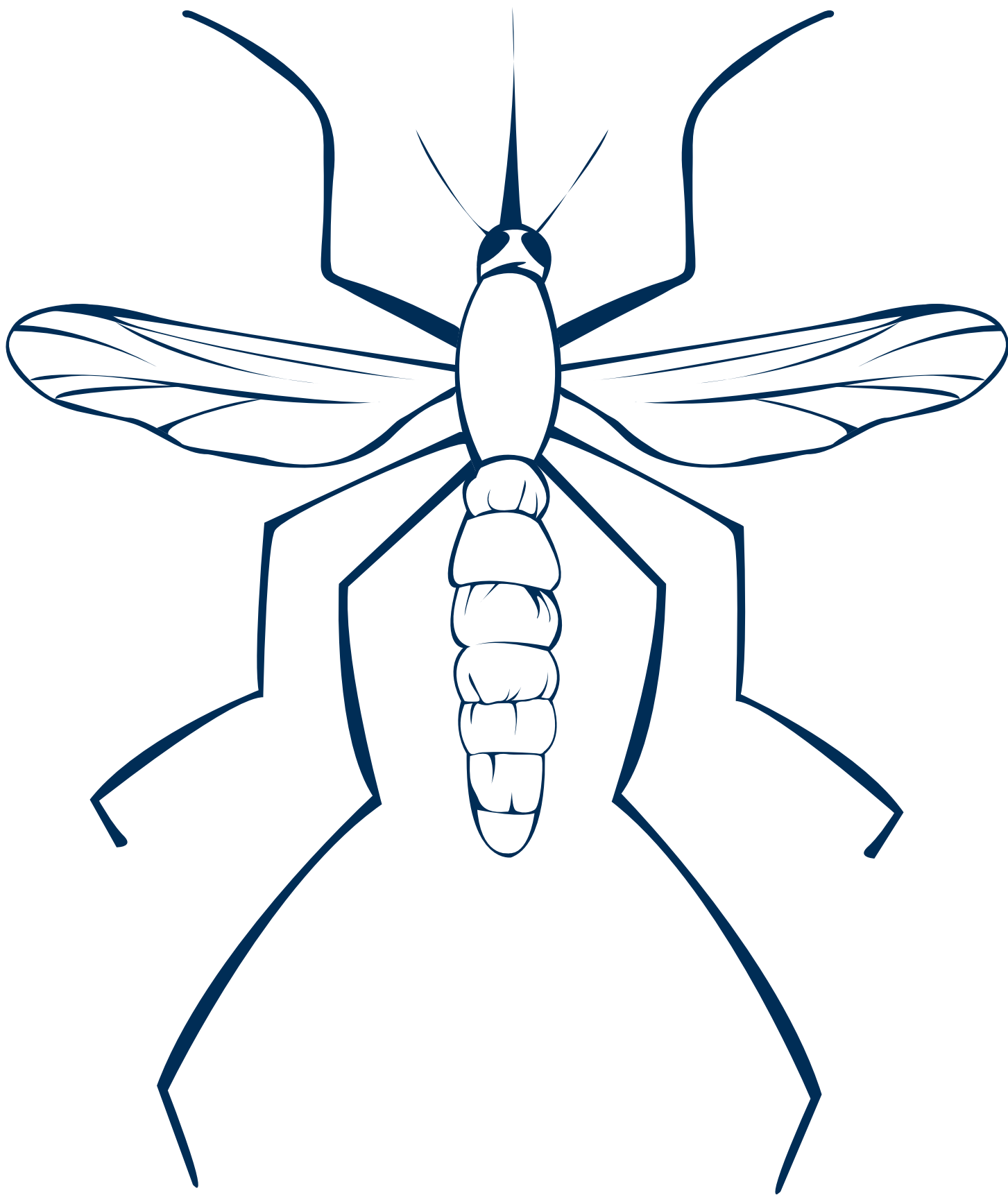
Boy Scouts can create posters or fliers that educate people about malaria and encourage them to visit the *Nothing But Nets* Web site. The posters or fliers should be creative and informative and can be hung at schools, churches or community events. The fliers could be put in the Scouting for Food bags that are distributed throughout your community.

Adult leaders and alumni can oversee the distribution of the fliers and posters once they are completed in order to maximize exposure.

Did you know ...

You can spread the word about what you are doing to help prevent the spread of malaria by sending your story to stories@NothingButNets.net. The *Nothing But Nets* team will read your story, share it with others and might even post it on the *Nothing But Nets* Web site (www.NothingButNets.net).







Community education project No. 2



Activity 4

Another effective way to raise awareness is through science fairs.

Cub Scouts can attend a science fair at a local school to learn more about how to educate people in creative ways.

Boy Scouts can create a project centered on educating people on the topic of malaria and what *Nothing But Nets* is doing to help. Once the science fair is over, you can show your exhibit to other members of your community to raise awareness.

Adult leaders and alumni can assist Scouts in coming up with science fair project ideas.

Did you know ...

Another great way to raise awareness is by contacting a local science museum and seeing if you can set up a display for a day. You can share your educational materials with others and get your entire group together to work the booth.

Please use the information card below to serve as an informative tool in spreading the word about malaria.



Boy Scouts of America 2010 Celebration



Visit NothingButNets.net to learn more. Malaria kills. Nets save lives. Send a net. Save a life.

- ★ Malaria is a disease that affects approximately 500 million people annually.
- ★ It is transmitted to humans through mosquito bites in malaria-endemic areas such as Africa.
- ★ Malaria can cause extreme flu-like symptoms — or even death.
- ★ Nearly 3,000 children die in Africa every day from malaria.
- ★ There isn't yet a known vaccine for malaria, but bed nets can reduce the spread of the disease by as much as 60 percent.
- ★ The specific mosquitoes that spread malaria only bite at night.
- ★ Bed nets can keep a family of four from getting bitten by mosquitoes when they sleep.
- ★ *Nothing But Nets* is a campaign that is making a huge difference by distributing millions of bed nets to people in need in Africa.
- ★ As part of our "100th Anniversary Year of Celebration," the Boy Scouts of America are working with *Nothing But Nets* to raise awareness about the malaria crisis in Africa.
- ★ It's time to educate and inform people about this problem — and the solution. Visit www.NothingButNets.net today.



Exercise and educate



Activity 5

“Nothing but net” is a term used in basketball for when someone makes a swish, which is when the ball goes through the net without even hitting the rim. So why not take to the court to give a whole new meaning to the term by turning “nothing but net” into a big win for *Nothing But Nets*?

Cub Scouts can play a version of the popular basketball game “H-O-R-S-E” by spelling “N-E-T-S.”

Boy Scouts can coordinate a small tournament of “N-E-T-S” or a basketball contest to see who can be the first player to make five swishes.

Adult leaders and alumni can assist in coordinating the games and can oversee an information booth that helps inform people about *Nothing But Nets* while the basketball games are going on.

Did you know ...

The foundation for NBA player Dikembe Mutombo helped distribute nets in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is Mutombo’s native land. And NBA player Luol Deng is a spokesman for *Nothing But Nets*.

N-E-T-S Basketball Game

How to play:

N-E-T-S is a takeoff of the popular playground basketball game of H-O-R-S-E, with an educational twist. Divide your group into two teams and have them line up. One player on Team A gets asked a question that relates to malaria and/or bed nets. If he gets the question right, he gets to take a shot at the basket from wherever he wants to on the court (if the question isn’t answered correctly, the next question goes to Team B). If he makes the basket, one player on Team B has to make the same shot (no question is asked before this shot). If he misses it, Team B gets the letter “N.” If the player on Team B also makes the shot, then the next person in line on Team A gets a question. Repeat these steps until one team has gotten all of the letters to spell N-E-T-S. The other team is declared the winner.



Possible Questions for N-E-T-S Basketball Game:

Q Which insect transfers the malaria parasite to humans?

A **Mosquitoes.**

Q True or false, you can get malaria if you are bitten by a mosquito in the United States.

A **False.**

Q Which continent is facing the biggest malaria epidemic in the world?

A **Africa.**

Q Symptoms of malaria are similar to what common illness?

A **The flu.**

Q True or false, people in Africa have to get bitten by mosquitoes at least 10 times in order to be at risk for getting malaria.

A **False. One bite may be all that it takes.**

Q Malaria is carried by only one gender of a certain type of mosquitoes. Is it the male or female?

A **Female.**

Q In Africa, a child dies from malaria every 30 seconds or every 30 minutes?

A **Every 30 seconds.**

Q Each year, approximately how many cases of malaria occur worldwide each year: 5 million, 50 million, 500 million?

A **500 million.**

Q What's the name of the organization that the Boys Scouts are working with to help raise awareness about the malaria problem in Africa?

A **Nothing But Nets.**

Q A typical bed net can cover a family of how many people?

A **Four.**

Q The bed nets are treated with what in order to kill the mosquitoes that land on them: honey, bug spray, insecticides.

A **Insecticides.**

Q Why are children at such a high risk for getting malaria in Africa: because they play outside more than adults, because their immune systems aren't as fully developed or because mosquitoes are attracted to smaller objects?

A **Because children's immune systems aren't as fully developed as adults' systems.**



Learn more about nets



Activity 6

Become an expert on the subject that you are advocating by learning all there is to know about nets.

Cub Scouts can create activity sheets that are focused on nets.

Boy Scouts can try their hand at creating actual net displays. The displays can show how nets work and what the sleeping areas look like.

Adult leaders and alumni can offer guidance on these projects.

Did you know ...

Malaria-carrying mosquitos in Africa generally bite late between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. A bed net is usually hung above the center of a bed or sleeping space so that it completely covers people as they are sleeping.





Word Match

Questions

1. Number of pregnant women at risk in Africa who get malaria each day.
2. Name of the parasite that causes malaria.
3. A bed net can protect a family of four in Africa for up to ____ years.
4. Name of the organization that founded *Nothing But Nets*.
5. Name of the female mosquitoes that spread malaria to humans.
6. Name of the popular singer who made a goodwill trip to Africa to help distribute bed nets.
7. Name of the organization that helps physically distribute the nets to people in Africa.
8. Name of the person who wrote a story in *Sports Illustrated* that inspired the creating of *Nothing But Nets*.
9. Number of bed nets that *Nothing But Nets* distributed in its first two years in existence.
10. A child in Africa dies because of malaria every ____ seconds.



Answers

- a. The United Nations Foundation
- b. Anopheles
- c. 30
- d. Plasmodium
- e. Rick Reilly
- f. 25 million
- g. Gavin DeGraw
- h. 2 million
- i. 5
- j. The Measles Initiative

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

Seek and Find

Puzzle

S O P C X T U K L M R D V F T N G
 U F J N B K A I N W S O H I Q Y Z
 A I B I L M B A S K E T B A L L A
 D P E O E N I L M A P A F R I C A
 O D E L J M O S Q U I T O E U A R
 S M R D V F T N G E Q W Y Z A I U
 W F O U R S O H I B N A J E U O P
 C C S M A L A R I A X T T U K A R
 S A C S O P C X T U K E L M R D V
 F M O L T N G U F U N R B R J I N
 W P U E S F O H I Q Y Z A I B I L
 M I T E A E D P E O E N I L M A P
 O N I P D M E L J E U A R S M R D
 V G N I F A T N G E Q Y Z A I U W
 S O G N H L I B N J E U O P C X T
 U K A G R E S O P C X T U K L M R
 D V F T N G U B U F K R P I N W S

Clues

1. Name of the disease that is caused by mosquito bites in certain parts of the world.
2. Which gender of mosquitoes carries the disease?
3. These mosquitoes often bite people when they are doing this at night.
3. Name of the sport in which the term “nothing but net” is often used.
4. The organization *Nothing But Nets* and the Boy Scouts are working to help people on what continent?
5. Mosquitoes are often unwelcomed guests at what popular outdoor Scouting activity?
6. A single bed net can cover a family of how many people?
7. Mosquitoes like to gather when there’s a lot of this substance around.

Answers: 1. Malaria, 2. Female, 3. Sleeping, 4. Basketball, 5. Africa, 6. Camping, 7. Four, 8. Water.



Spread the word about malaria



Activity 7

You can share all that you've learned about malaria and *Nothing But Nets* through educational activities.

Cub Scouts can create a multiple-choice or true-false quiz by turning the information they have learned about malaria into questions that they can share with friends and family.

Boy Scouts can write an activity sheet focused on the disease and *Nothing But Nets*, or they can write a report that they can turn in at school.

Adult leaders and alumni can provide guidance on these projects.

Did you know ...

The *Nothing But Nets* Web site can help you create your attention-raising materials.

You can download (www.NothingButNets.net/its-easy-to-help/user-downloads.html) photos, videos, toolkits, posters and more.





Put on a skit



Activity 8

Unleash your inner actor by putting on a play that depicts the impact of malaria and all that it does to the people of Africa. This will be a fun way to get across a serious message.

Cub Scouts can put on a skit about malaria, following a pre-written script. Each Scout can be encouraged to take ownership of his role to really bring it to life.

Boy Scouts can write and perform the skit, and it can be taped and posted on YouTube or photos can be posted on Facebook.

Adult leaders and alumni can act as the “producer” of these skits and can help arrange props. They can also help get the video/photos posted online.

Did you know ...

Studies show that the use of insecticide-treated bed nets can reduce malaria transmission by as much as 60 percent. These nets are treated with insecticides that are highly toxic to insects but nontoxic to humans.

The Bed Net

Cast
Five Scouts

Props
One bed net (*a large blanket or sheet will work*) and a few pieces of camping equipment, such as sleeping bags

Scene
(*Scout 1 is sitting in the middle of a campsite, fiddling with a bed net, when Scout 2 approaches.*)

Scout 2: Boy, I just went on the best hike. I saw so many different plants and cool animals. I am beat. What have you been doing anyway?
(*Scout 1 holds part of the bed net in the air.*)

Scout 1: I am making a bed net.

Scout 2: Um, a what?

Scout 1: A bed net. When we're snoozing in our sleeping bags tonight, I don't want to get bitten by mosquitoes.
(*Scout 2 slaps at an imaginary mosquito on his neck, then grabs part of the bed net and starts helping Scout 1 as Scout 3 walks on stage.*)

Scout 3: Hey, what are y'all doing?

Scout 2: We're making a bed net to keep the skeeters away.

Scout 3: I'll help!
(*Scout 3 grabs another end of the bed net and the three Scouts move around until they are completely covered by the net. Scout 4 walks on stage, looking around for his friends.*)

Scout 4: Guys ... Hey, guys?!?! Where are you?

Scouts 1, 2 and 3: We're over here, under our bed net.

Scout 4: That sure was smart to make a bed net. But did you remember to make a door?
(*After short pause, Scouts 1, 2 and 3 frantically try to escape the blanket. Scout 5 walks on stage.*)

Scout 5: A bed net can help make a camping trip more enjoyable for us in the United States. But these nets can do a lot more than that in Africa. Mosquito bites in certain parts of Africa can cause malaria, which is a leading killer of children in that continent. As part of our Year of Celebration service project, we are spreading the word about how bed nets are saving lives in Africa. Please ask someone in our unit for more information.