

Lesson 1

What's the Buzz?

Age/Grade Level: 4th – 6th

Lesson Objective:

Participants will learn about malaria and its causes and the locations around the world where it is present.

Materials Needed

Wall World Map or overhead transparency
World Map coloring page
Crayons - Blue, Green, Red and Black for each child

As the students arrive

Pass out a copy of the world map coloring page to each student. Tell them to look at the world map on the wall and begin coloring the land forms green and the water blue using the wall map as a guide. (It is not important to finish this, although many of them will want to.)

Lesson Content

Tell the students to bring their maps to the large group. Give the students a red crayon and a black crayon. With the red crayon have them put a dot on the map where they live and have them trace the line on the equator with the black crayon. Ask if any of the students know where the Sahara Desert is located. Have them point it out on the map or show them where it is located. Tell them that our unit is going to focus on children in Sub-Saharan Africa or the countries in Africa located below the equator. Have them put a dot on the center of Ghana, Africa.

Introduce the poem, “Buzz”. Ask them to listen and see if they can figure out what Buzz is. Tell them you will ask some questions following the reading.

Discussion Questions

What is Buzz? *Since there is no indication you may get various answers but the correct one is a mosquito. If they get it correct ask how they might have known this.*

Where is he going? *To visit a sick friend*

What made his friend sick? *A parasite*

What is Buzz afraid of? *Getting sick (or infected)*

What are Buzz and his friends trying to stop? *Malaria*

What do they think will stop it? *Nets*

Using the supplemental information on malaria, discuss the disease and how it is spread. Ask them if they have ever known anyone who has had malaria. Make the point that malaria is only found in certain areas where the conditions are right. Show them the picture of the map showing the areas where malaria is predominant. Point out those countries relative to where they live. If time, they may want to color those countries on their maps a darker green.

For the activity, they will make a model of a mosquito. In the next lessons the mosquitoes will be used in a display. Make additional ones for students who are not in attendance. This may be done by students who finish quickly. You may create your own design or use the ideas below for this activity.

Activities

- Mosquito Craft - (*see attached*)

Additional Activities

- For further information, www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/insects has coloring pages of the mosquito life cycle, sequencing cards and a diagram of an anopheles mosquito.
- Glue Earth Window Cling (*see attached*)

Application / Closure

Tell the students that next week they will hear a story about a boy who lived in Ghana whose family was affected by malaria. Tell them to be thinking about how your group may want to get involved in stopping the spread of malaria.