To help teach kids about mosquitoes, the Florida Department of Health has launched Spill the Water!, a kid-friendly mosquito bite prevention campaign packed with information and resources that encourage students to cover up and spill sources of standing water around their home. We have developed a teacher tool and corresponding activity sheets for pre-K through high school. The teacher tool and activity sheets align with already established benchmarks. You are a valuable partner in our effort to teach kids how to protect themselves from mosquito bites and we hope you will utilize Spill the Water! resources in your classroom. We know that by teaching children we’re also teaching their parents and communities. Thank you for all that you do for Florida’s students.

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
State Surgeon General and Secretary
Florida Department of Health

Let’s teach kids to use their powers.
Florida Health has created SpillTheWater.com to educate young Floridians about preventing mosquito-borne illness: West Nile disease, Eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis and, most recently, Zika fever. There are no vaccines to protect people from mosquito-borne illness so the best way to reduce everyone’s risk is to avoid bites. When we get rid of standing water where mosquitoes breed, we have fewer mosquitoes and fewer bites! Covering skin with clothing or bug repellent, and draining standing water outside, are actions everyone can take to protect themselves, their family and their community.

Be a hero. Visit SpillTheWater.com for brain teaser activities, worksheets and more that can help familiarize students with mosquito-borne illness prevention. The resources highlighted in this brochure are designed to align with Florida Standards and integrate with CPALMS.
Elementary School

Grade 1
Mosquito Snacks The Mosquito Snacks activity sheet is great for teaching kids how to use their senses to make observations about animals and plants. Can be used with the PBS video What Do Animals Eat? to help students explore what different animals eat: www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ttc02.sci.life.colt.eat/what-do-animals-eat/

ALIGNS WITH:
SC.1.L.14.1 Make observations of living things and their environment using the five senses.

Middle School

Grade 6
How Many Mosquitoes? Did you know that many of Florida’s native animals and insects love to eat mosquitoes? In fact, the eastern mosquitofish (Gambusia holbrooki), is an efficient and natural predator of mosquitoes—this little fish is known to eat as much as one and a half times its body weight in various invertebrate prey like mosquito larvae in a day. Mosquito control districts across the country use the eastern and western mosquitofish (Gambusia affinis) to help reduce mosquito populations.

ALIGNS WITH:
MAFS.6.EE.2.7 Solve real-world and mathematical problems by writing and solving equations of the form x + p = q and px = q for cases in which p, q and x are all non-negative rational numbers.

ii. HE.6.C.1.3 Identify environmental factors that affect personal health.

High School

Grade 9–12
Plants vs. Mosquitoes Teachers can introduce this activity with a video to highlight facts about carnivorous plants:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktlGVTkdgwo

ALIGNS WITH:
SC.912.L.14.7 Relate the structure of each of the major plant organs and tissues to physiological processes.

ii. HE.912.C.1.3 Evaluate how environment and personal health are interrelated.
Let’s stand up to standing water around buildings & homes.

Volunteer Opportunities for Middle & High School Students

Students can help prevent the spread of Zika and other mosquito-borne diseases by taking action in their community. Mosquitoes can breed and multiply in as little as one teaspoon or bottle cap of water. Florida needs volunteers to find and clean up standing water where mosquitos breed. By donating their time, students can earn volunteer/community service hours. Advisors can organize student groups to canvas the school campus, visit local cemeteries, parks and other public areas and dump sources of standing water from pots, vases and other containers. Students can also offer to help neighbors, especially the sick or advanced in age, dispose of garbage or debris on their property that may hold standing water, clean gutters and repair screens on windows or doors where needed. Advisors and students can reach out to their local mosquito control office, county health department and county extension office to identify other opportunities for service hours.

Advisors, find tools at SpillTheWater.com