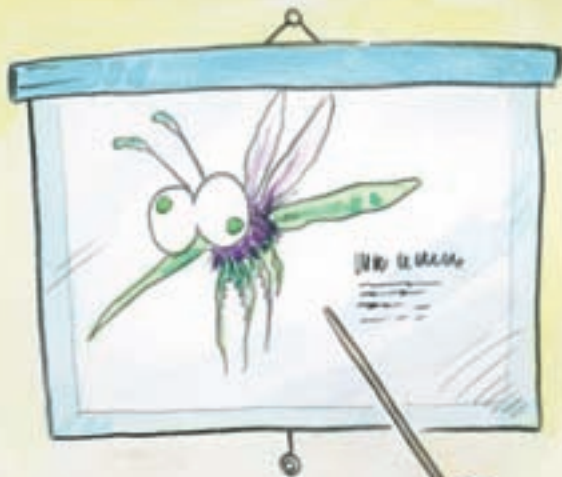


The A·B·C·S of B·I·T·E·S



Written and illustrated by Joe Sutliff
Developed by the Fairfax County Health Department



The A·B·C·S of B·I·T·E·S



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Fairfax County Health Department
Division of Environmental Health
Disease Carrying Insects Program

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fightthebite

A

Asian Tiger Mosquito

The Asian tiger mosquito has a black body and white stripes. Blood is its favorite meal, and it bites during the day.



THANK
GOODNESS
I ATE!

B

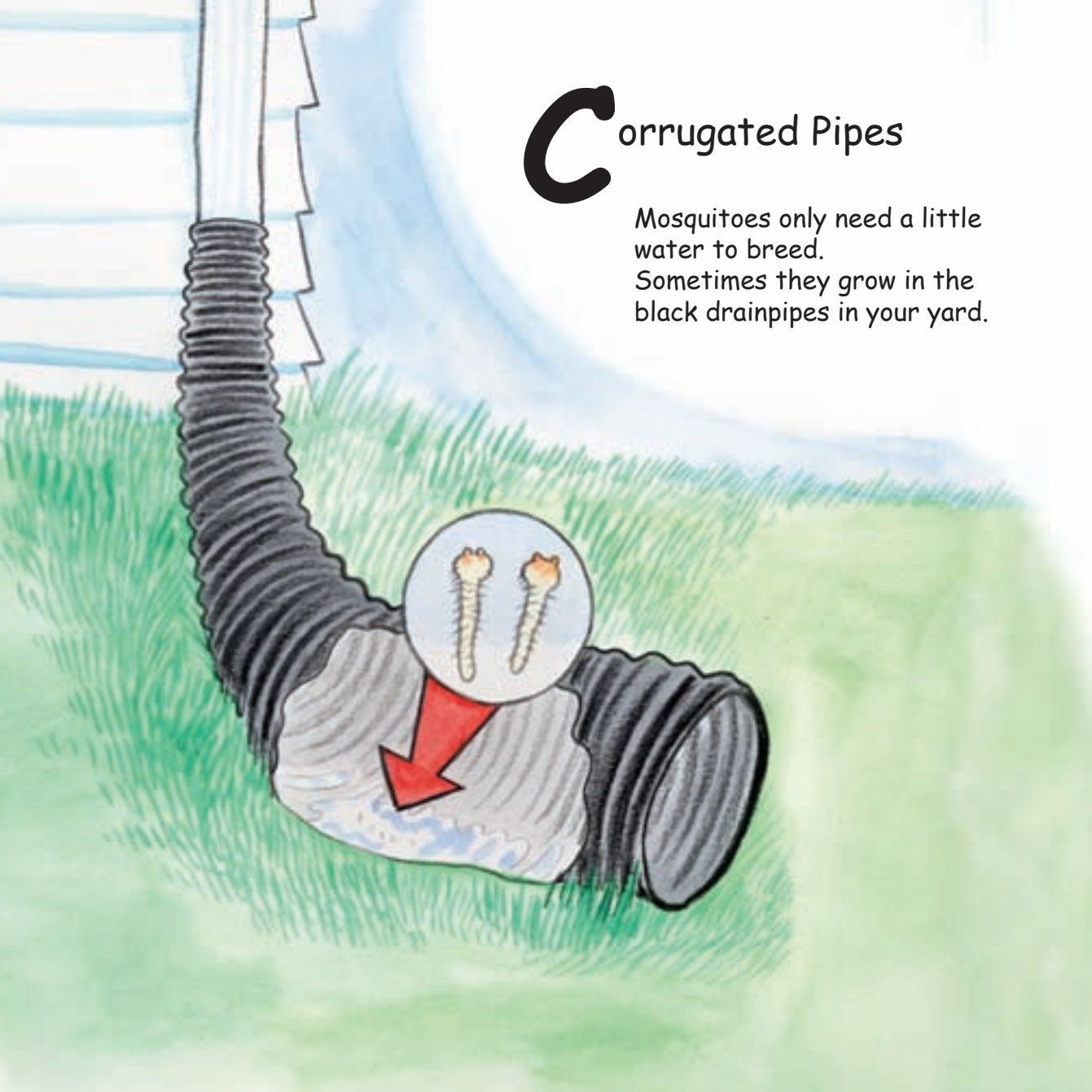
lood
and
Bites

Girl mosquitoes bite to suck blood and get protein to lay eggs.



Corrugated Pipes

Mosquitoes only need a little water to breed.
Sometimes they grow in the black drainpipes in your yard.



Dragonfly

Dragonflies eat mosquitoes.





Mosquito



Ladybug



Yellow jacket



Grasshopper



Ant

E ntomology

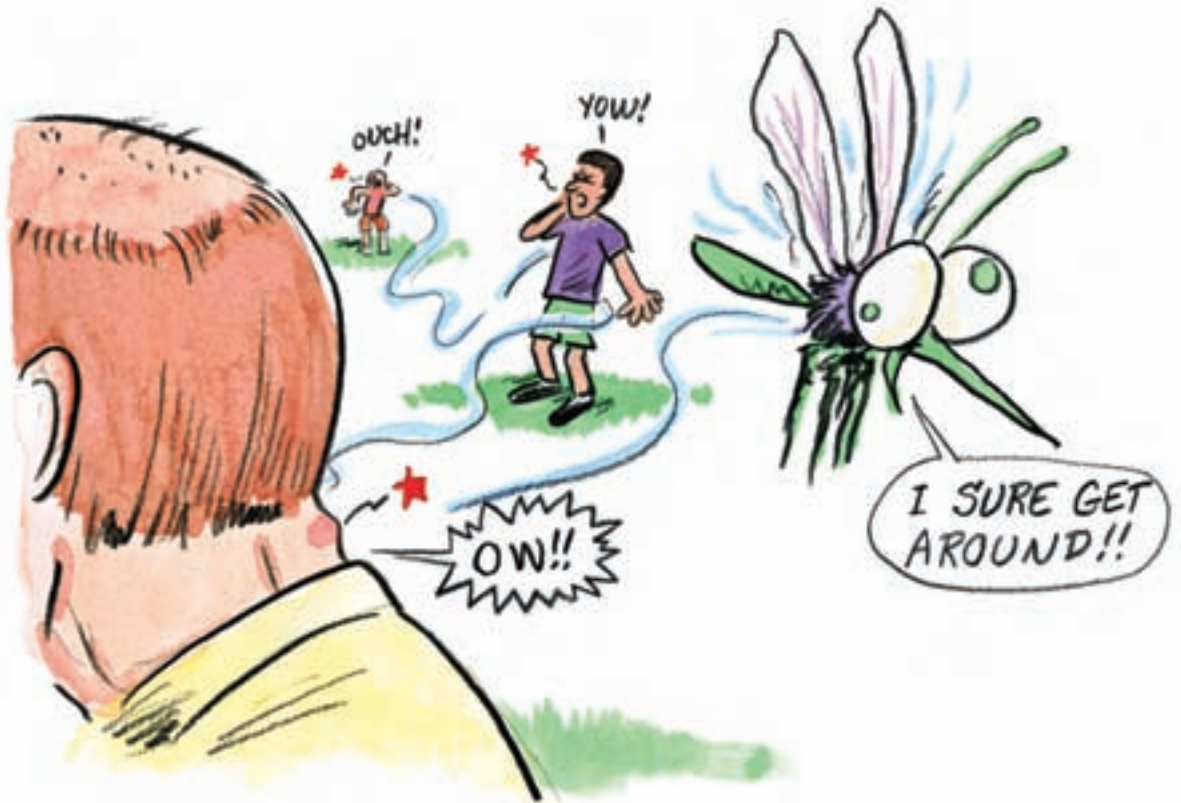
The study of insects.

Inchworm



Flying

Mosquitoes fly around to find food. They like to stay near cool, shady areas but will travel far in search of blood.



Gutters

Dirty gutters hold water. Make sure an adult keeps them clean.





Hide

Mosquitoes hide in the colder months.
They will come out in the spring.

I^{vy}

The Asian tiger mosquito hides in plants like ivy, azaleas, and other shady bushes.



Junk

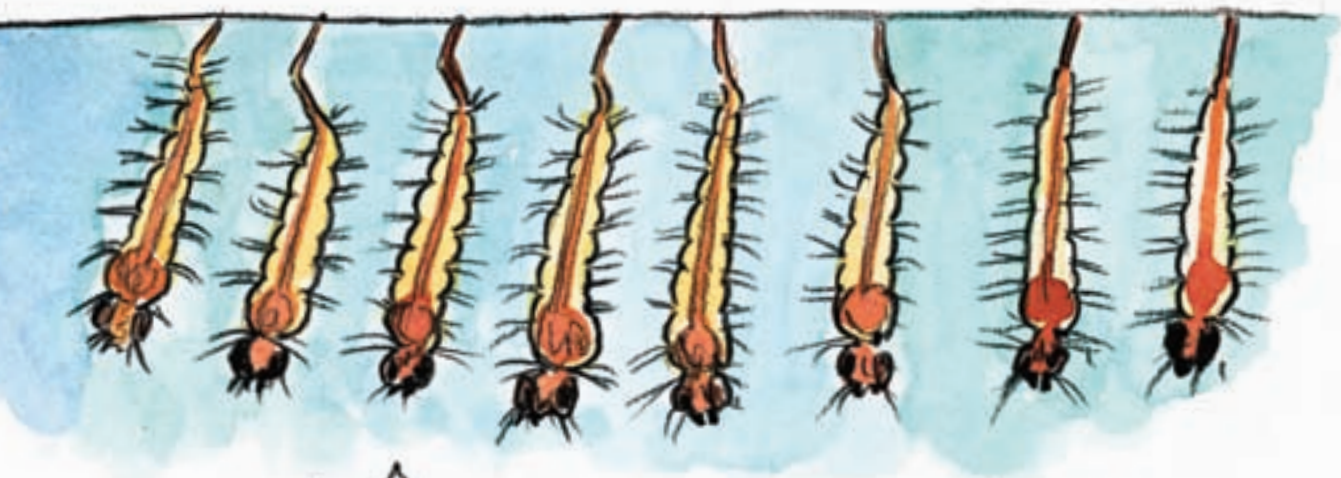
Cleaning up junk gets rid of places where mosquitoes can breed and also helps the environment.



Kiddie Pools

After you are done playing in the kiddie pool, make sure you have an adult empty all the water out so mosquitoes can't lay their eggs.





Larvae

Larvae are baby mosquitoes that grow in water; you can see them wiggling around.





Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes are blood-sucking insects that can make you sick.



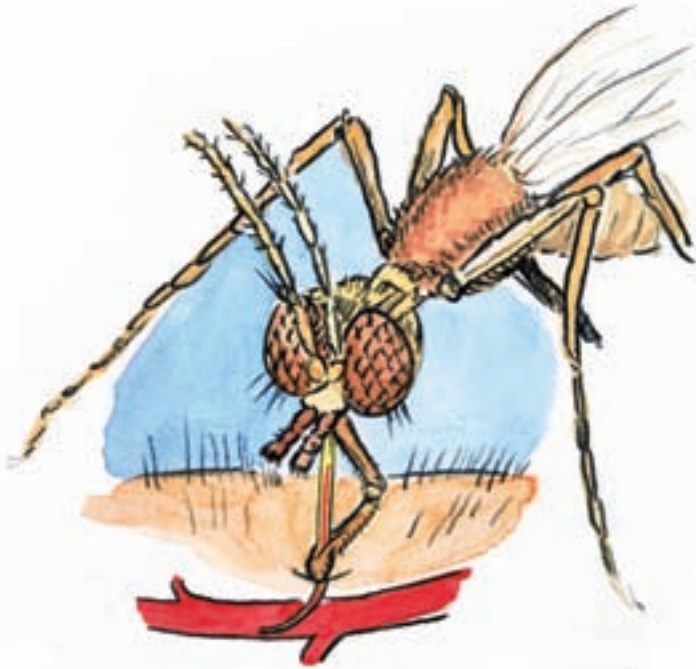
Nectar

Nectar is sugar water that all mosquitoes use for food. Only girl mosquitoes drink blood.

O utdoors

Outdoor play can be more fun if you keep mosquitoes away.





P roboscis

Mosquitoes use their proboscis, a straw-like mouth, to suck blood.

Q uestions

The Health Department can answer your questions about mosquitoes.





R repellent

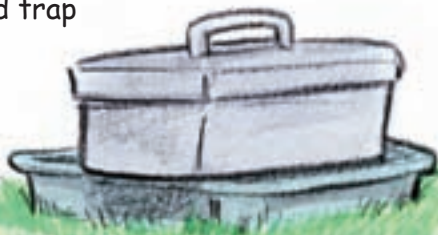
There are many different types of repellents that keep mosquitoes away.

Surveillance

Surveillance means looking for mosquitoes to see how many there are in your neighborhood.



Gravid trap



BG Sentinel trap



T

rap

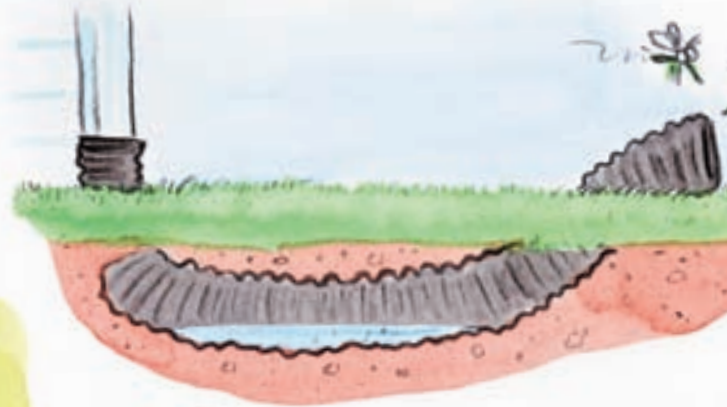
The County uses many different types of traps to catch mosquitoes.



CDC Light trap

U nderground

Even underground drainage pipes breed mosquitoes.





Virus

A virus is a small germ that can make you sick. Some viruses are carried by mosquitoes.

West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus is carried by some mosquitoes and can make you sick.



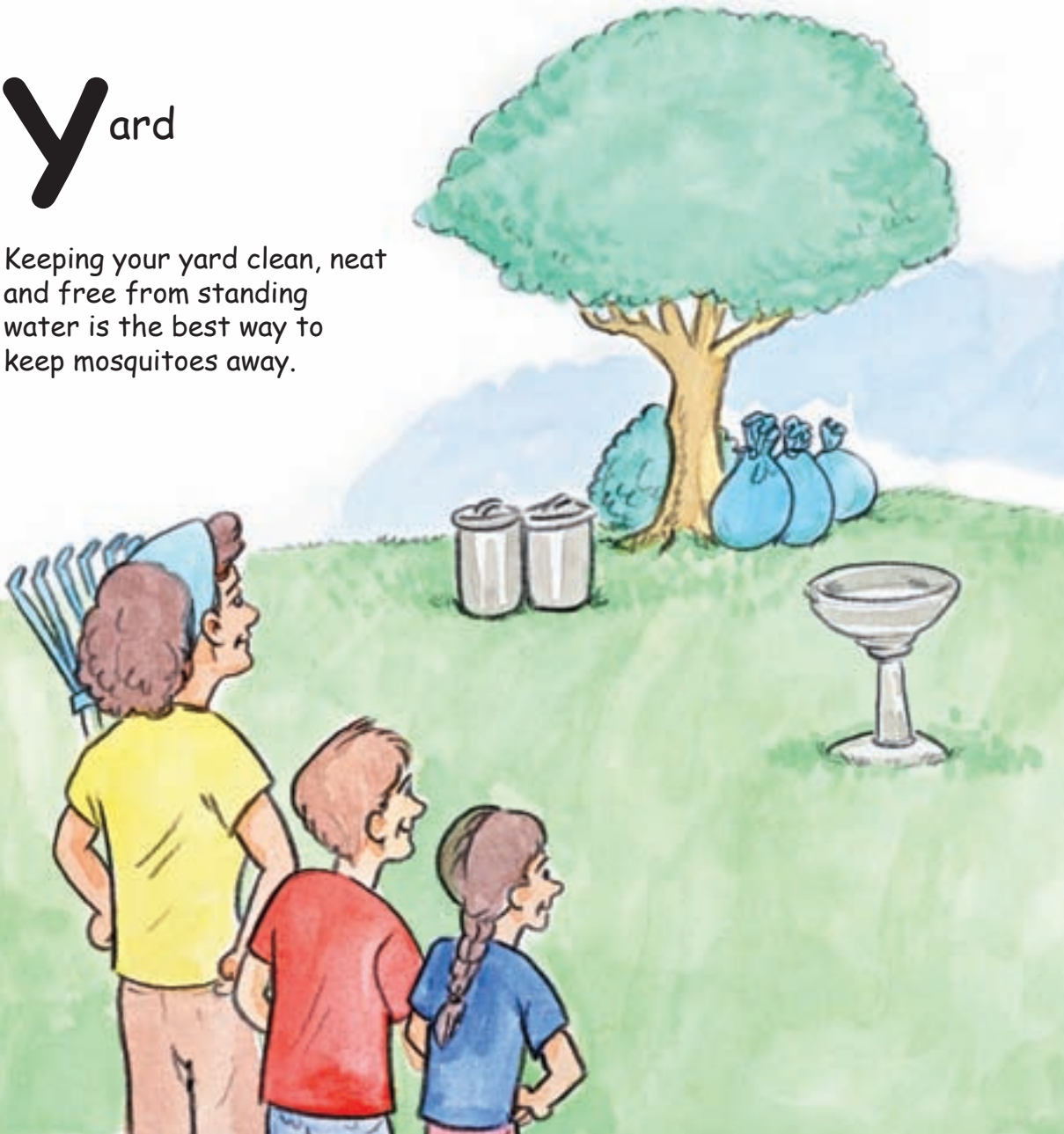
e X amine

Examine your yard for breeding sites. See the back of this book for a helpful checklist.



Yard

Keeping your yard clean, neat and free from standing water is the best way to keep mosquitoes away.



Z_{ero}

Our goal is to have zero people sick with West Nile virus in Fairfax County. Help us by doing your part!



Breeding Site Check List

Use this to help eliminate mosquitoes in your yard.

Get Rid of Standing Water

- Plastic containers, trays, etc.
- Toys, playhouses. etc.
- Planters, flower pots, etc.
- Bird baths, fish ponds, decorative garden fixtures, etc.
- Kiddie pools
- Old tires, tire swings

Check Drainage

- Clean gutters
- Remove or make sure corrugated drainpipes on downspouts do not hold water
- Clear drainage ditches of trash & junk

Look for Hidden Water

- Tarps
- Storage sheds
- Watering cans
- Hoses





The Disease Carrying Insects Program (DCIP) was established in 2003 to monitor and control mosquitoes and West Nile virus in Fairfax County. Since then, it has expanded to include ticks and tick-borne diseases. The mission of the program is threefold: vector and disease surveillance, vector management and control as well as community education and outreach activities.

The program's goal is to minimize the impact of mosquito- and tick-borne diseases with an integrated approach to pest management.

DCIP Team

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