

Science Time

Program Content for February 3, 2016

Read the article “**Mutant mosquitoes new weapon to combat Zika**” on page A6 of the Sunday, January 31, 2016 e-Edition of The Seattle Times.

Pre-reading and Vocabulary: Define each term and then use it in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding.

1. lethal
2. perennial
3. insecticide
4. genetically modified organism

Comprehension Questions

1. What is unique about the 100,000 mosquitoes released each day in the Brazilian city of Piracicaba?
2. Has the release program cited above been successful at reducing mosquito populations?
3. Name at least three (3) diseases that are transmitted through mosquitoes.
4. Why are new mosquito population control methods needed to battle the spread of the Zika virus?
5. While new mosquito control methods are being scaled up, what do experts suggest should be done?
6. Why are women in areas impacted by the Zika virus being advised not to get pregnant?
7. Why is the use of the widely banned pesticide DDT being reconsidered for use against Zika?
8. What is the name of the mosquito that transmits Zika?
9. Why is the mosquito that transmits Zika particularly effective at spreading this disease?
10. What is another new alternative mosquito control approach being tested besides the one that involves genetic modification?

Prompts and Extensions

1. Check out this online Seattle Times Close Up: [What you need to know about Zika virus](#) from January 28, 2016
2. Watch these news clips about the spread of the Zika virus (CBS - [clip 1](#), CNN - [clip 2](#))
3. Explore this [website](#) to learn more about genetically modified organisms and the techniques used to create organisms similar to the genetically engineered *Aedes aegypti*. Also check out this [site](#) by Oxitec, to learn how this company creates a genetically modified mosquito.
4. Read this [Seattle Times article](#) from last year about the Florida community mentioned in this Science Time article that was unsure about the safety of Oxitec's genetically engineered *Aedes aegypti*.

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