

Lesson Plan

Lesson Title	Ticks: Life Cycle and Safety Tips
Grade Level	Kindergarten – 2 nd grade
Topic	Ticks
Lesson time	30 mins.
Materials Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ticks: Life Cycle and Safety Tips PowerPoint (available here) • Tick Life Cycle Kit • Activity Book (available here)
Standards addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • K-ESS3-1: Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live • LS1.A: All organisms have external parts. Different animals use their body parts in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find and taking in food, water and air • 2-LS4-1 Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats

Ticks: Life Cycle and Safety Tips (PowerPoint)

Slide 1: Introduction and Expectations

Slide 2: Tick Habitat

Just like all animals, ticks have certain habitats where they can survive. Ask a student what the definition is, and an example of a habitat. Ask students to describe the oak woodland habitat in the picture (trees, logs, grass, leaves, hills, animals, etc.). See if they can find all the animals in the photo (deer, lizard, mouse). Ask students to share activities that they might like to do in this habitat type (hiking, camping, hunting, bird-watching, biking, etc.). Point out that all of these activities are healthy, but when we go into natural habitats, we need to be careful because ticks might around. Ask if anyone noticed a tick in the picture. When you click/tap, an enlarge picture of a tick will appear.

Slide 3: Life Cycle

Explain that ticks have a life cycle. Just like all animals, they need food to survive and grow, and unfortunately, the only food they ever eat is blood. When you click, three blood drops will appear. Each represents when a tick has to find a person or another animal to bite. The larva usually bites a small animal (rodents, birds) and then grows into a nymph. The nymph also bites small animals but will also bite people. The nymph grows to an adult. The adult ticks are much larger than the nymphs or larvae, and will bite people and other large animals like dogs or deer. The problem with this is that ticks sometimes spread germs when they bite and they can make people very sick.

Slide 4: Safety Tips

The following tips can be helpful for the next time you visit tick habitat. Each click will reveal a new tip. Notice there are things to do before you enter tick habitat, while you are in tick habitat, and after you leave.

1. Wear light-colored clothing so it is easier to see any ticks that might be climbing on you.
2. Wear tick repellent. Encourage students to remind their parents to read the directions very carefully before they put anything on their skin.
3. If you are hiking, stay in the middle of the trail because ticks cannot fly or jump.
4. Check yourself and the people/pets you are with for ticks.
5. When you get home, put your clothes, shoes and small items like backpacks in the dryer. Ticks can sometimes survive the washer, but not a dryer.
6. Take a shower and have a parent check for ticks.

Slide 5: Removing a Tick

Follow the directions on the slide. Students often have their own ideas about removing ticks, but this is what the CDC recommends.

Slide 6: Tick Matching Game (students love this)

- The final slide of the presentation is a matching game. This is a fun way to re-cap what was learned in the lesson. All the students are on one team. Have students take turns guessing a number. When someone guesses a number, click or tap it (depending on whether you are using a mouse or a tablet) to reveal what is on the other side of the card. Have another student guess another number, reveal it, and if the picture matches, the students get a point, and those cards stay “revealed” (don’t click/tap on those cards again). If the pictures do not match, click or tap on each to turn them back over, and the “teacher” team, gets a point. Call on another student and continue until they get all of the cards are revealed. If you let the student team have 3 free guesses, they should always win and everyone will be happy. With this activity, be forewarned that students can get very excited and will noisily cheer when they get a matching pair. Also, make sure to not let give anyone a hard time if they don’t get a match!

Visit the [Mosquito School website](#) for more information or email erice@msmosquito.com