



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Thomas R. Bice
State Superintendent of Education

March 28, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice *TRB*
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Zika Virus Information for Elementary Schools

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) are collaborating to create awareness about the Zika Virus. As warm weather quickly approaches and mosquito season begins, this vital information will help address public health concerns about the virus. Primarily, the Zika Virus is transmitted to people through bites from an infected Aedes species mosquito. Outbreaks of the Zika Virus have been reported in the United States, with one confirmed case in Alabama. The most devastating results of the virus are brain defects in babies known as Microcephaly and babies born with small heads and big bodies. As a result, pregnant women and women of child-bearing age are most at risk. We encourage principals in schools with Grades Pre-K through 3 to distribute the Zika Virus coloring book titled *Swat Team Skeeter Beaters Coloring Book* (copy attached for your review) that will be hand-delivered to the schools by the local county health department environmentalist. The coloring book is packed with information on what families can do to prevent contracting the virus.

Should a school need copies of the coloring book printed in Spanish or additional books, the principal may request them from their health department environmentalist. More information is available on the ADPH Web site at www.adph.org/mosquito by clicking on Zika Virus.

If you need further assistance, you may contact Ms. Sherry Bradley, Bureau of Environmental Services Director, ADPH, at 334-206-5805 or e-mail at Sherry.Bradley@adph.state.al.us or Dr. Marilyn Lewis, ALSDE, Prevention and Support Services Section, at 334-242-8165 or by e-mail at mlewis@alsde.edu.

TRB/ML/KM

Attachment

FY16-2045

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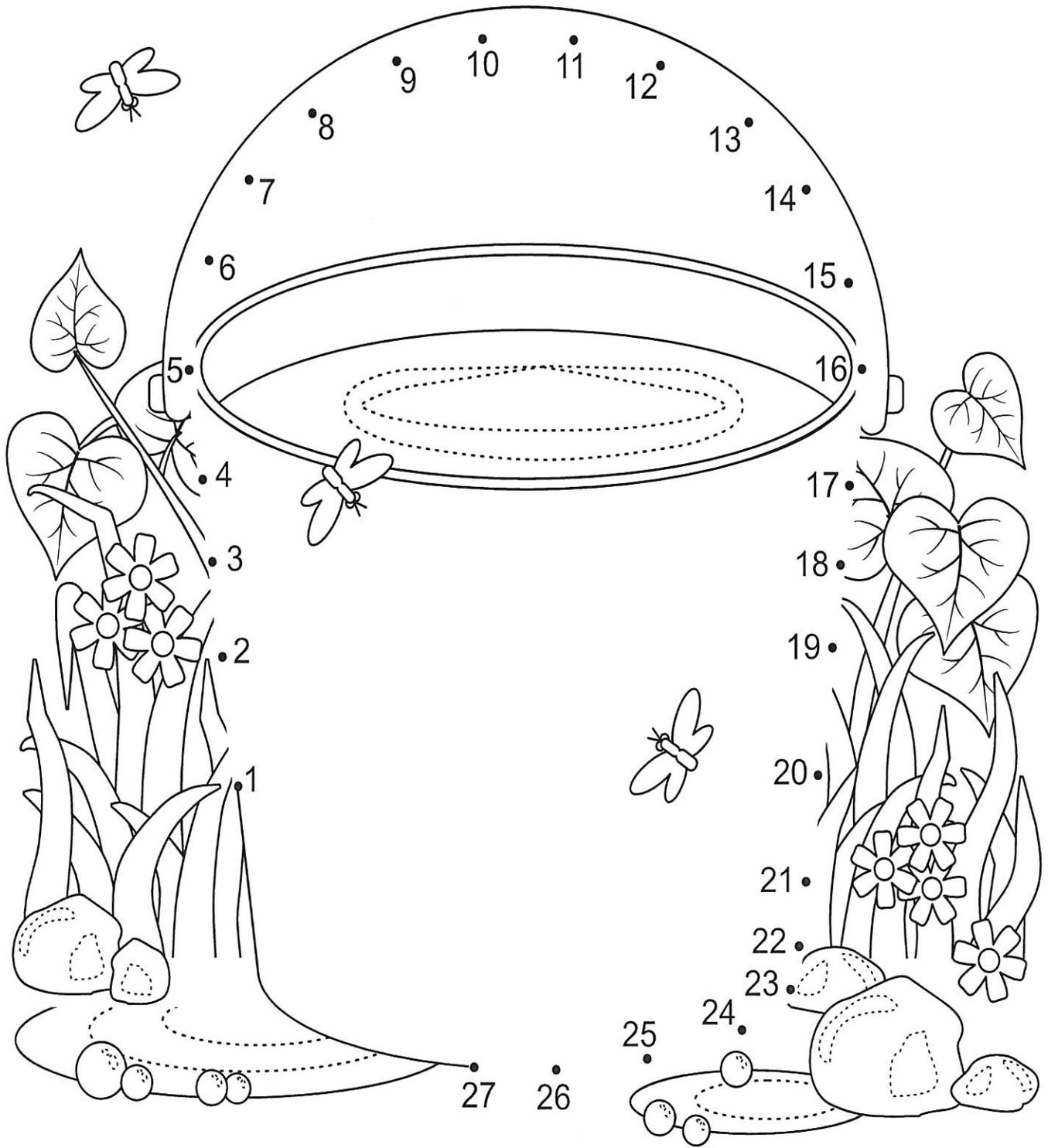
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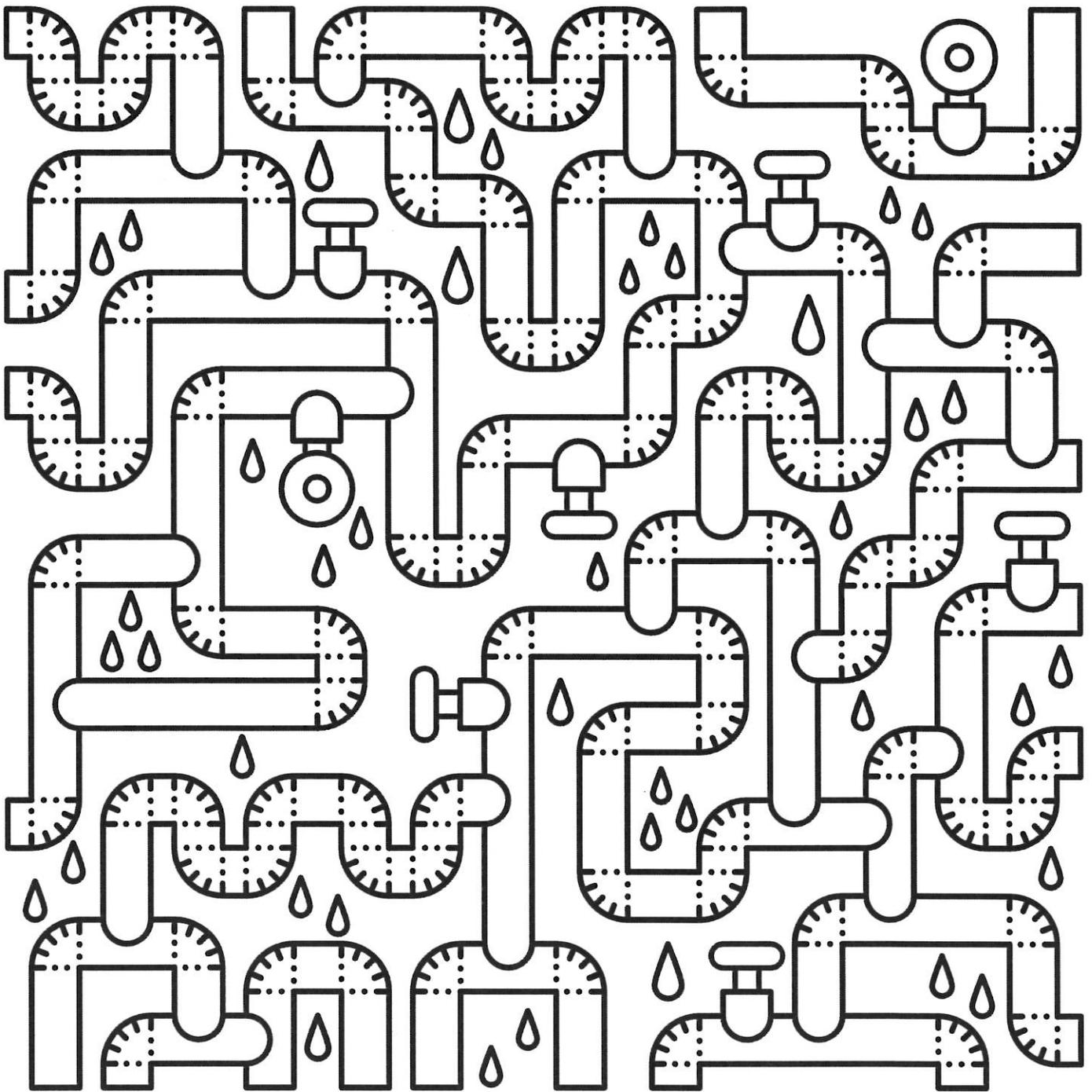
SWAT TEAM

Skeeter Beaters Coloring Book

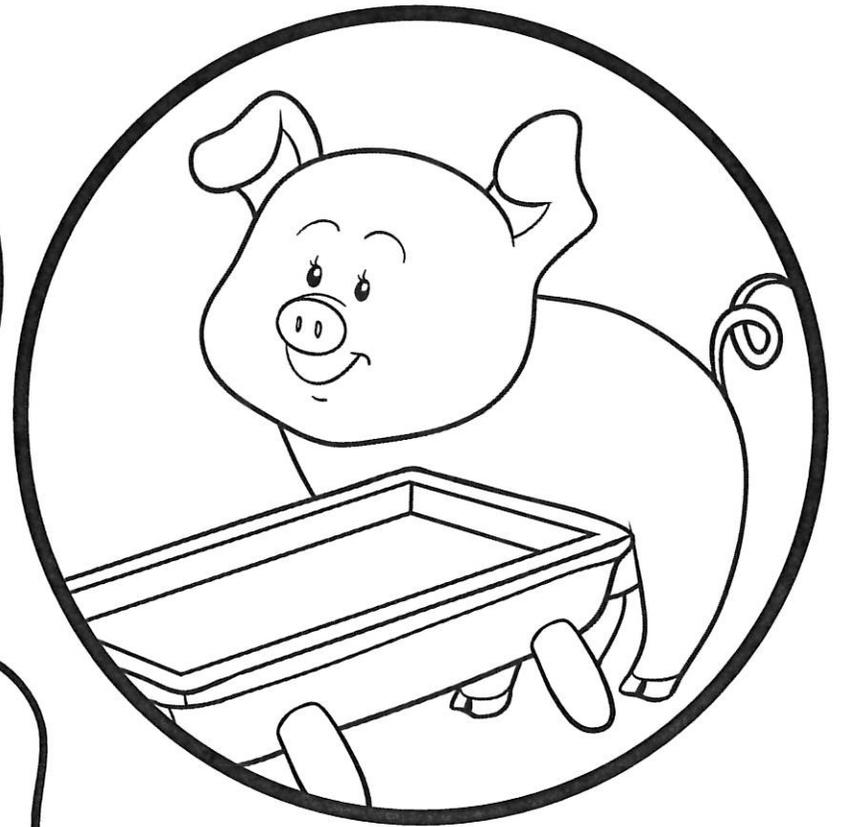
Join the Alabama Zika Virus Swat Team! Color and Learn what you can do to prevent Zika Virus.



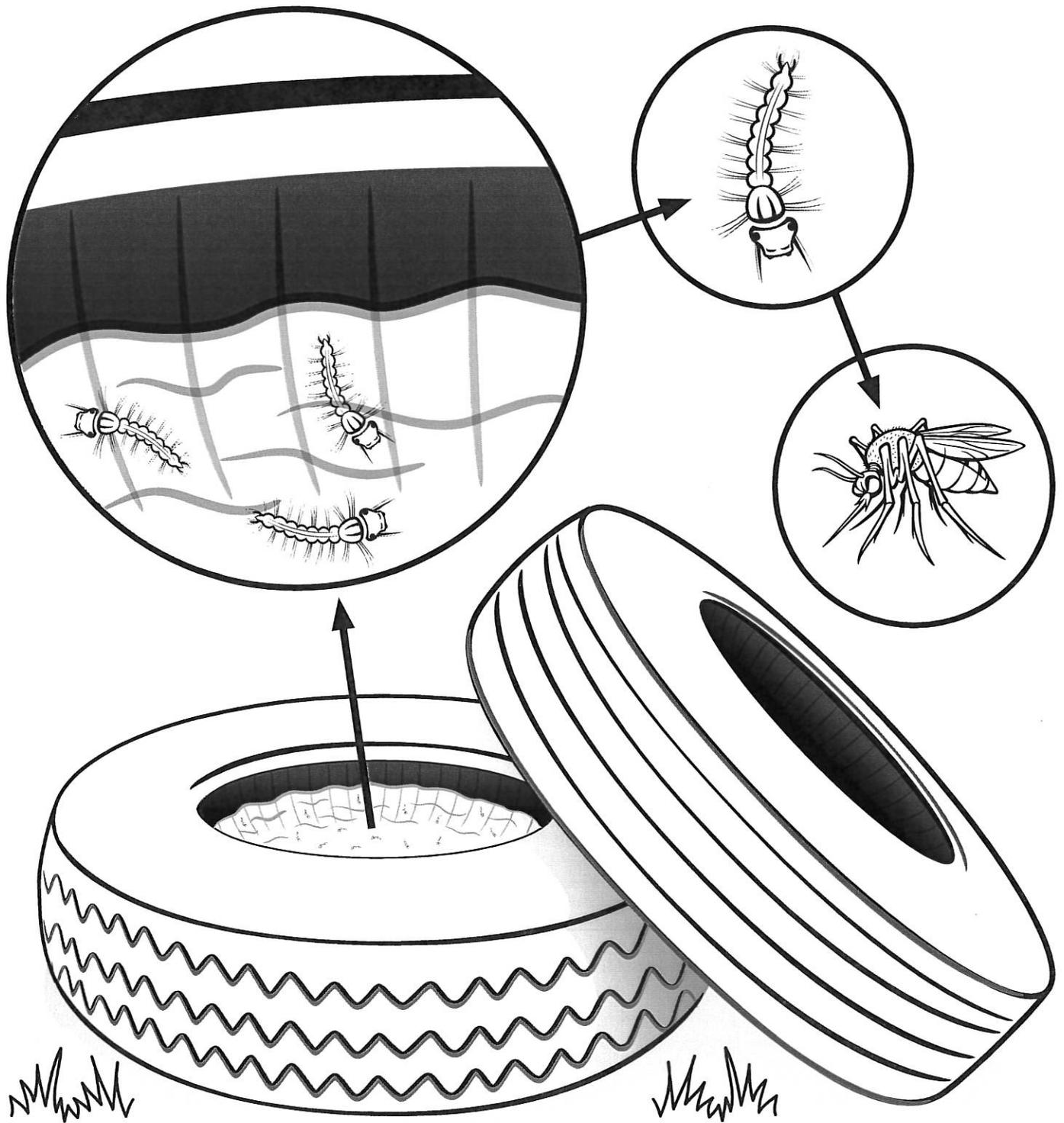
Dispose of unused containers that collect water in your yard such as old buckets, cans, bottles, or jars.



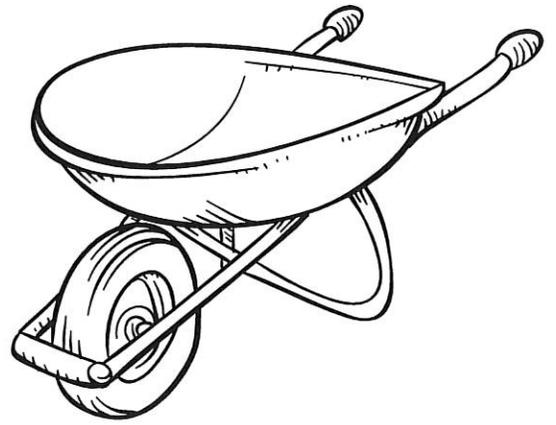
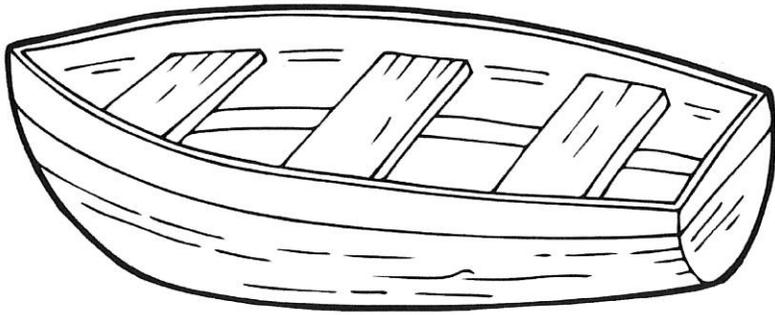
Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets, and keep drains and gutters unclogged so the water does not collect in those areas.



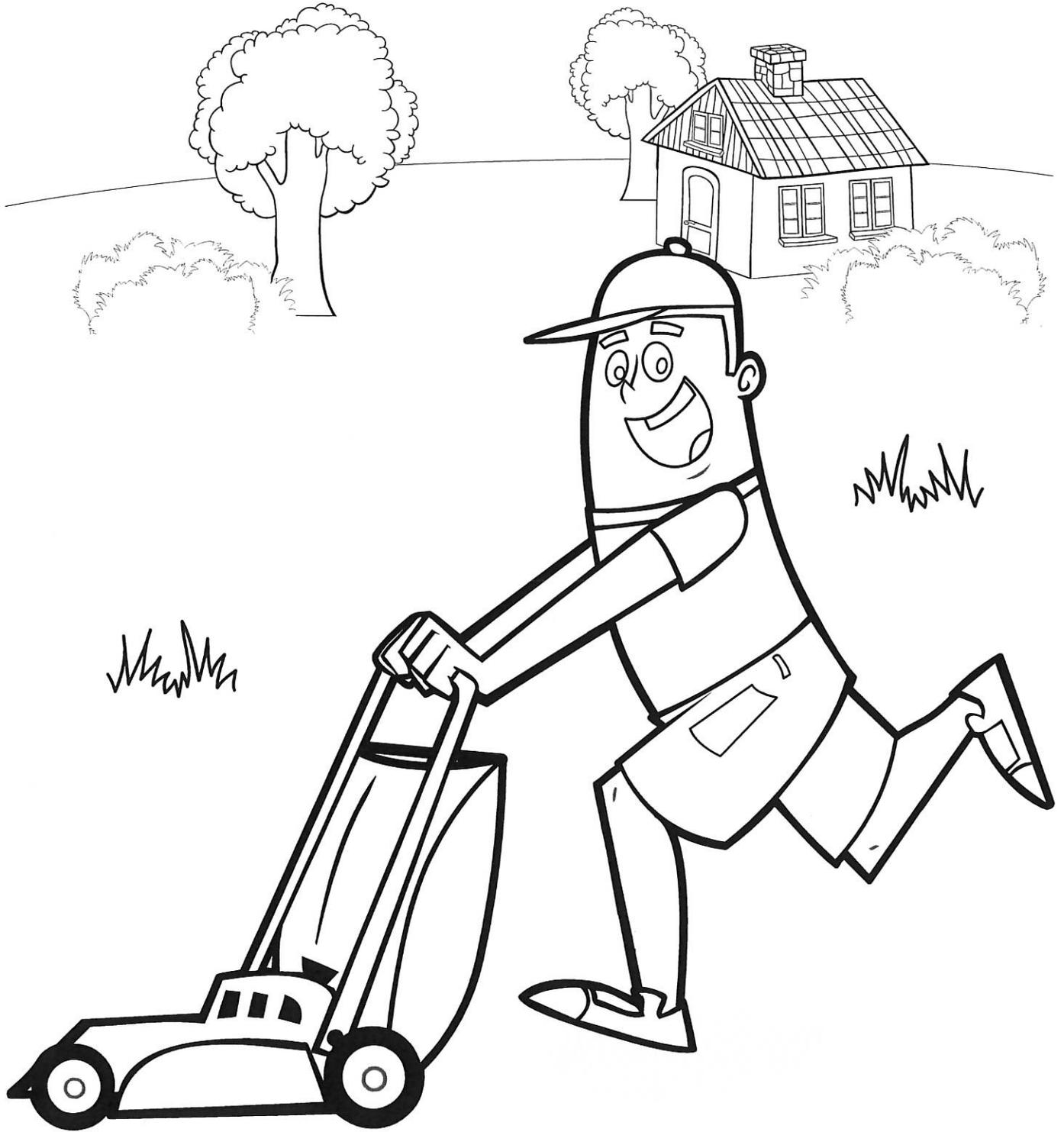
Change the water and scrub the sides of bird baths, animal troughs, and pet watering dishes often to get rid of mosquito eggs.



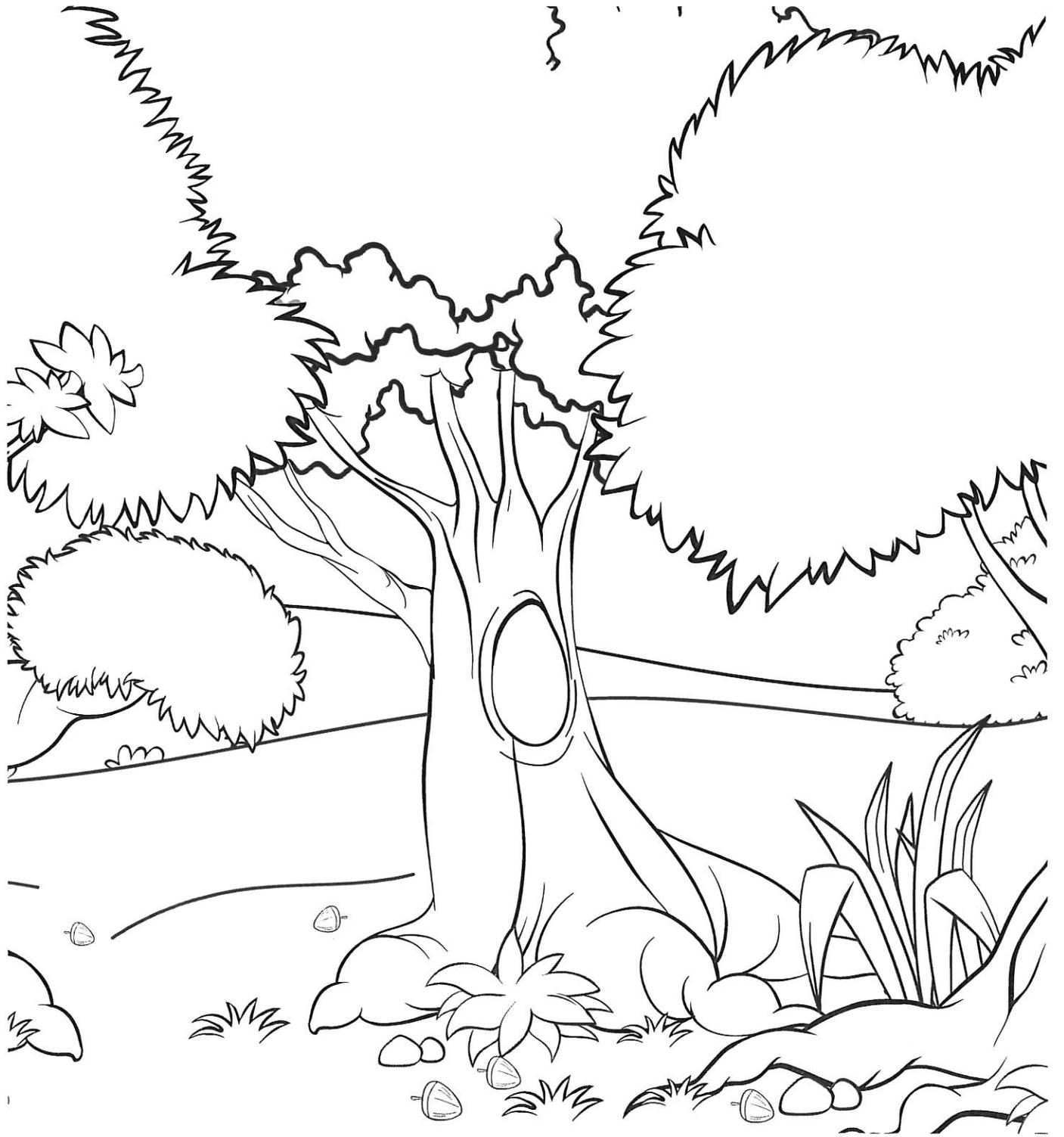
Properly discard unused tires, make holes in them, or store them in a covered area so that water cannot collect in them.



Turn wheelbarrows, tubs, children's wading pools, and boats upside down or store them under cover when not in use.

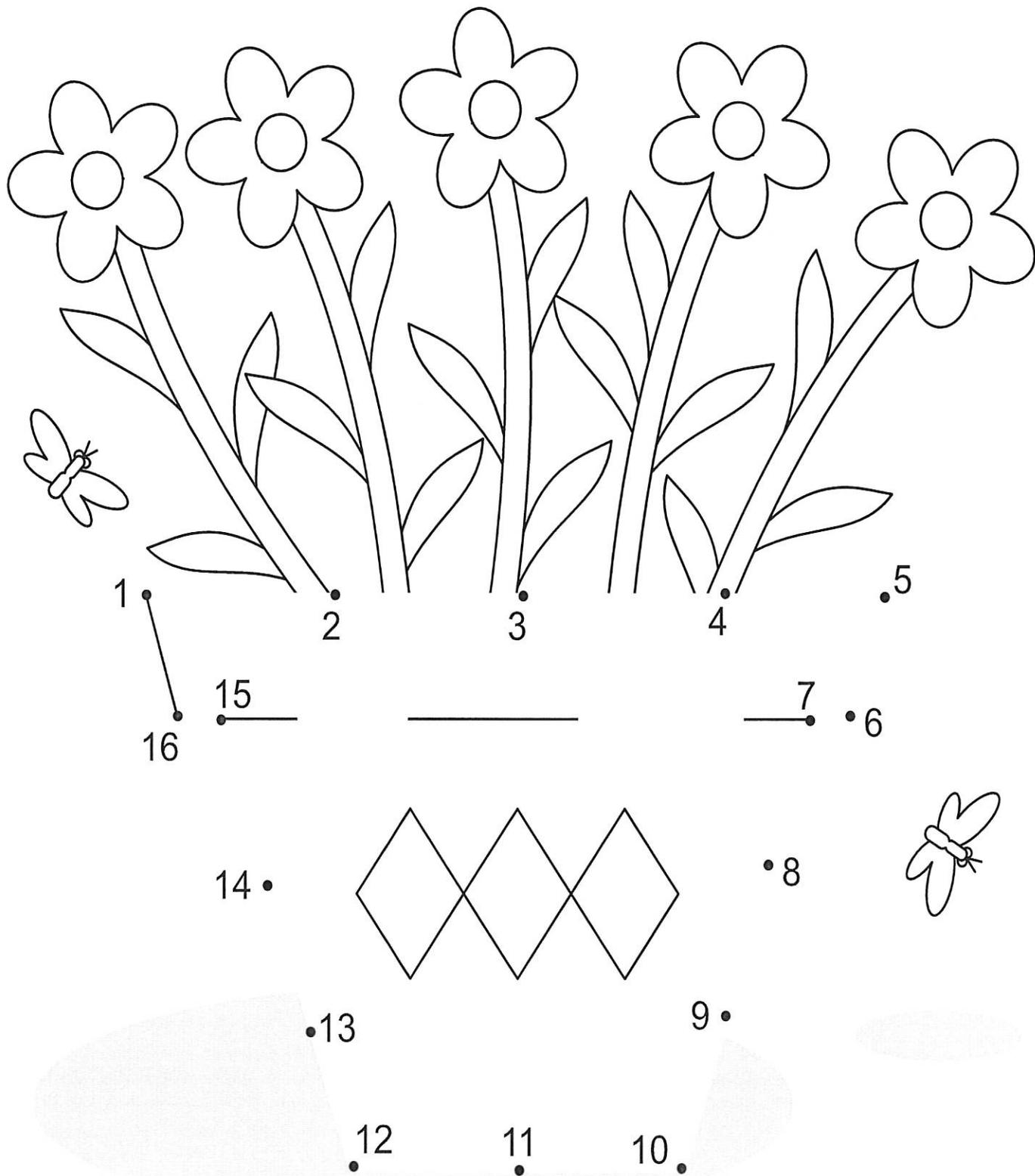


Keep weeds, vines, and grass trimmed since mosquitoes use these shady areas as resting places during hot daylight hours.

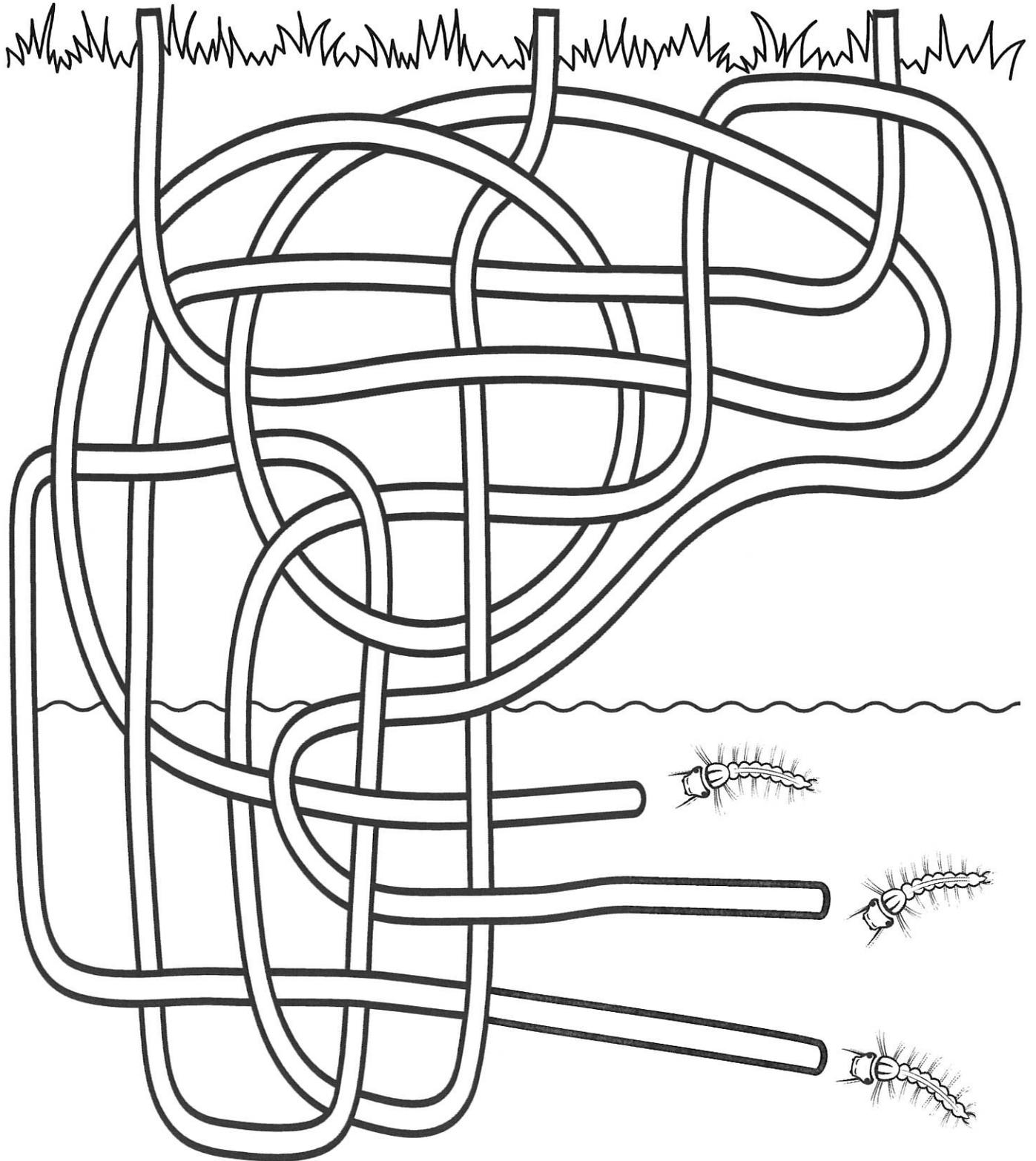


Fill tree holes with sand or mortar so that water does not collect in them.

Change water in vases and pots holding flowers and cuttings twice weekly.



**Mosquitoes can breed inside buried pipes.
Which pipe leads to which mosquito larva?**



TEAR OUT THIS PAGE AND SHARE WITH A PARENT OR TEACHER.

Avoid exposure to viruses that are transmitted by mosquitoes, like Zika Virus, West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and St. Louis Encephalitis.



STOP RAISING MOSQUITOES IN YOUR YARD

It's a fact: all mosquitoes need water in which to develop. Listed in the checklist are some helpful tips on how to reduce sources of water in your yard which are potential breeding sites.

PREVENTION IS KEY

Take an active role in reducing your exposure to mosquitoes. Eliminate breeding sites before mosquitoes become a problem, and reduce your chances of being bitten by wearing protective clothing and repellents. Avoid fragrances and dark-colored clothing which attract mosquitoes.

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO INSPECT YOUR YARD AT LEAST TWO TIMES A WEEK.

- Dispose of unused containers that collect water in your yard such as old buckets, cans, bottles, or jars.
- Repair leaky pipes and outside faucets, and keep drains and gutter unclogged so the water does not collect in those areas.
- Change the water and scrub the sides of bird baths, animal troughs, and pet watering dishes often to get rid of mosquito eggs.
- Properly discard unused tires, make holes in them, or store them in a covered area so that water cannot collect in them.
- Turn wheelbarrows, tubs, children's wading pools, and boats upside down or store them under cover when not in use.
- Keep weeds, vines, and grass trimmed since mosquitoes use these shady areas as resting places during hot daylight hours.
- Fill tree holes with sand or mortar so that water does not collect in them.
- Change water in vases and pots holding flowers and cuttings twice weekly.



CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) Public Hotlines

For questions concerning Zika Virus:

English: 1-888-246-2675

en Español: 1-888-246-2857

Hearing Impaired: 1-866-874-2646

**For more information, go the Alabama Department of Public Health
website www.adph.org/mosquito or call your county health
department or health care provider.**