



Ask a volunteer from each group to share their stat with the group.

Note: To extend this time – you could have each group make a poster to share this stat with the group...)

NICKELS FOR NETS PROGRAM

6D1HKOY8DBSSBOW/OW/BK8OSSOBW8EW/8B0BBW/K8EM8BBW/BOSKDBG0G0
MO80DB088K0G0880
"Providing mosquito nets through Sweet Sleep to orphans in Africa!" (If your church or school already partners with a malaria-affected country where Sweet Sleep works, feel free to share about what your group has done and how this Sweet Sleep project will be great for that country's children.)

"All you have to do is see how many nickels, or other change – even dollars – you can bring in to help us provide these nets for orphans! You can get your friends and family to help, you can even sell lemonade or friendship bracelets – anything you can do to see how many nets you can provide! If you fill your box up before time to turn them in, just come by my room and dump it in our Nickels for Nets bucket and keep going!"

Be sure to share with the children what your projects end date is. You may want to plan a party to celebrate the collection, etc.





OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

Here are some frequently asked questions* so you can become more informed and help Sweet Sleep combat this disease.

FACTS

- A child dies from malaria every 30 seconds. That's 2,800 children per day.
- Malaria is very preventable. And very inexpensive to prevent. The mosquito nets Sweet Sleep provides are just \$8 each... eight dollars to save a child's life.
- In Africa, according to the World Health Organization, one in every five childhood deaths (20 percent) is due to malaria. A typical African child may experience one to five malaria related fevers a year.

WHAT IS MALARIA?

Malaria is an infection of the blood caused by mosquitoes that carry the malaria parasites. The infected mosquito bites a person and then transmits it to another person when they are bitten by the infected mosquito.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF MALARIA?

Malaria causes fevers and chills. It can be short-term or you can have chronic (long-term) malaria that can cause the spleen to enlarge and lead to anemia (low blood count). This is a particular problem with people with HIV. Cerebral malaria is very dangerous and has a high mortality rate if not treated promptly. Its symptoms are a lot like meningitis and can be associated with seizures as well.





HOW PREVENTABLE IS MALARIA?

Malaria is very preventable!

WHAT IS THE NUMBER ONE WAY TO PREVENT MALARIA?

The best way to prevent malaria is to not be bitten by mosquitoes. Spraying for mosquitoes, removing ponding water sources (where they like to breed), and using mosquito nets treated with an insecticide are the best ways to prevent malaria. Sweet Sleep provides these life-saving nets to children for only \$8.

WHAT CAN PEOPLE IN AMERICA DO TO PREVENT MALARIA IN AFRICA?

People in America can contribute financially to organizations like Sweet Sleep that provide mosquito netting to areas where malaria is prevalent. They can also raise awareness of this potentially deadly but preventable illness by participating in World Malaria Day activities.

**Answers are provided by Gary Howard, Director of Emergency Services at Vanderbilt Medical Center.*



“BREACH THE NET” (OLDER KIDS/PRE-TEENS)

Breach The Net is not just fun and educational, it also promotes cooperation, develops leadership skills, and encourages creative thinking and problem solving.

CREATING THE NET

Find an open space indoors or outside across which you can construct your web. Use strong soft string or thick wool, but avoid anything that might give rope burn to kids’ fingers, or not give way easily if someone gets stuck.

Start stretching and winding the string across the space to make a series of irregular shapes and holes: some big, some small, some high, and some along the ground. Use door handles, window catches, furniture, tree branches or whatever else you can find to tie onto securely along the sides of the net, and you can attach small weighty objects (like beanbags) at the bottom of the web to pull the strings taut. You can knot sections or cut the thread and reattach it elsewhere, but keep the string quite tight so it makes strong obvious shapes.

About twelve clear gaps no higher than the players’ heads is a good number to work towards, although depending on the space and number of participants, you can make the net as big as necessary. Be careful not to make it so high the players couldn’t reach through it, or so wide that the string loses tension.





PLAYING THE GAME

The object of the game is to get all the players safely from one side of the net to the other, without disturbing the string and without using each hole more than once (you can make the rule 'twice' for a larger group).

Say: "Today we're going to be little mosquitos and try to get through this net!" Explain that completing the challenge successfully will mean working together, coming up with plans, and helping each other. Younger groups might have a false start or two for practice before they can settle into this! Tell the group to sit down and work out some strategies first, and emphasize it will need everyone's ideas and input to achieve the goal. Players can crawl, be lifted, be slid through flat (crowd-surfing style), or climb through themselves – but the aim is to get everyone across, not just make it through yourself.

Stand by ready to step in if necessary for safety reasons, veto any dangerous plans where someone might be hurt, and make suggestions if the group gets stuck. At key moments, offer hints such as moving a few strong capable players to the other side first through the easy holes so they can help lift other people through higher holes, getting bigger players through lower holes and little players through tiny ones, and making sure you leave options for the last players waiting to cross.

Afterwards, take time to discuss the game – what plans worked and what didn't? Who came up with good ideas, showed good leadership, was the strongest, most nimble, most cooperative? What strategies would the group use next time? – what did they learn about efficient methods, helping each other, and sharing ideas? Even in a party situation, the players will be high with excitement at having achieved their goal and thus



all won the game together, and will love talking about the experience and congratulating each other on their success!

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PERFECT NET

Say: “It was definitely challenging to get our group through the net! Think about how hard, thankfully!, it is for mosquitos to get through mosquito nets we’re providing through Nickels for Nets! If you can imagine, mosquito nets have 500-600 tiny holes in just one tiny one-inch square! This keeps mosquitos from getting through the net and giving kids malaria. Sweet Sleep also checks kids nets to see if they have holes in them – if they do, there’s no point in having one! Every child in a malaria-affected area needs a clean, intact, treated mosquito net.

SEED BEAD NECKLACE CRAFT (1ST GRADE+)

PURCHASE

Multi-colored seed beads from Michael’s or Walmart, fishing line and clasps.

PREPARE

Place a generous amount of seed beads on paper plates where a few students can reach them. Keep clasps and scissors handy. Cut fishing line to be long enough to be a necklace for the kids you’ll be working with – be sure to leave a little at each end for tying to the clasps.





GATHER CHILDREN AND SAY:

“Today we’re going to make a seed bead necklace! Take the string and load it full of beads in no particular order. When you’re ready, raise your hand and I’ll come help you put the clasp on and cut off any excess string.” After they are all complete ask the children to look at their creation. Say: “Just like it would be very hard to count all the beads on your necklace and definitely all the ones in this room, it is difficult to keep up with the growing number of orphans in the world. We know that each day about 5,760 kids become orphans and that right now there are somewhere between 130-210 million orphaned and abandoned children – many living in areas where malaria is a threat to their lives every day. When you wear your necklace, remember to pray for orphans and for those receiving the mosquito nets we’ll be providing through our project!”

