



MUD MITES- FICTIONAL NEWS ARTICLE

This lesson is a big hit if you show the students the Mud Mites Art Accent.

The mud mites accent is an easy TWO steps:

1. Color the border with brown marker.
2. Use a glue stick to glue 5-10 pairs of tiny googly eyes.

Note: The eyes stick best if you put the glue on the *paper*. Then, place the eyes on the glue.

Setting up the Lesson:

1. Tell the storyline: “You’re going to write a news article about an outbreak of mud mites. The mud mites can be anywhere and can create ANY reaction. Your story will include a cure for the reaction and/or a way to get rid of the mud mites.”
2. Brainstorm possible reactions to the mud mite bites:
 - a. Itchy/rash
 - b. Purple spots
 - c. Swelling of ears
 - d. Can’t stop giggling
 - e. Shrinking/Growing
 - f. Have fun gathering your students’ ideas!
3. Brainstorm possible cures that may or may not work.
 - a. Spraying fruit punch
 - b. Bathing in lime juice
 - c. Wearing a suit for 24 hours
 - d. Have fun gathering your students’ ideas!
4. Brainstorm possible ways to get rid of the mud mites themselves:
 - a. Flooding the area with Dr. Pepper
 - b. Drying the mud with hot lamps
 - c. Mixing vinegar into the mud
 - d. Have fun gathering your students’ ideas!



5. Show the 5 sections:

- a. Introduction (time/location/who/what)
- b. Attempt 1 who/what
- c. Attempt 2 who/what
- d. Attempt 3 who/what
- e. Conclusion (Prevention/Warning)

Now to write:

Guide the students through the following steps. They are free to use their own words. Remind them that ANYTHING can happen in their story as long as they follow the steps to keep their story organized. (I've written examples in italics just for your own guidance.)

1. Begin the article with an eye catching exclamation:

News Flash! Breaking News! Mud Mites Mess in North Dakota!

2. Write the when and where the outbreak occurred.

Last night, in Bismarck, North Dakota...

3. Write what happened and to whom.

Two children were playing in the mud when suddenly they had purple spots all over their arms and legs.

4. Write the first attempt to help them.

Their mom sprayed them with the hose. Nothing happened.

5. Write the second attempt to help them.

Paramedics rubbed chocolate all over the spots. That didn't work.

6. Write the third attempt to help them.

Two friends gave them a spoonful of lemon juice. That worked! The spots went away.

7. Tell how to prevent from being attacked or warn them.

Scientists are looking into what caused the breakout. For now, stay out of the mud or have lemon juice close by!