

# Flies

*A Reading A-Z Level H Leveled Book*  
*Word Count: 199*

LEVELED BOOK • H

# Flies

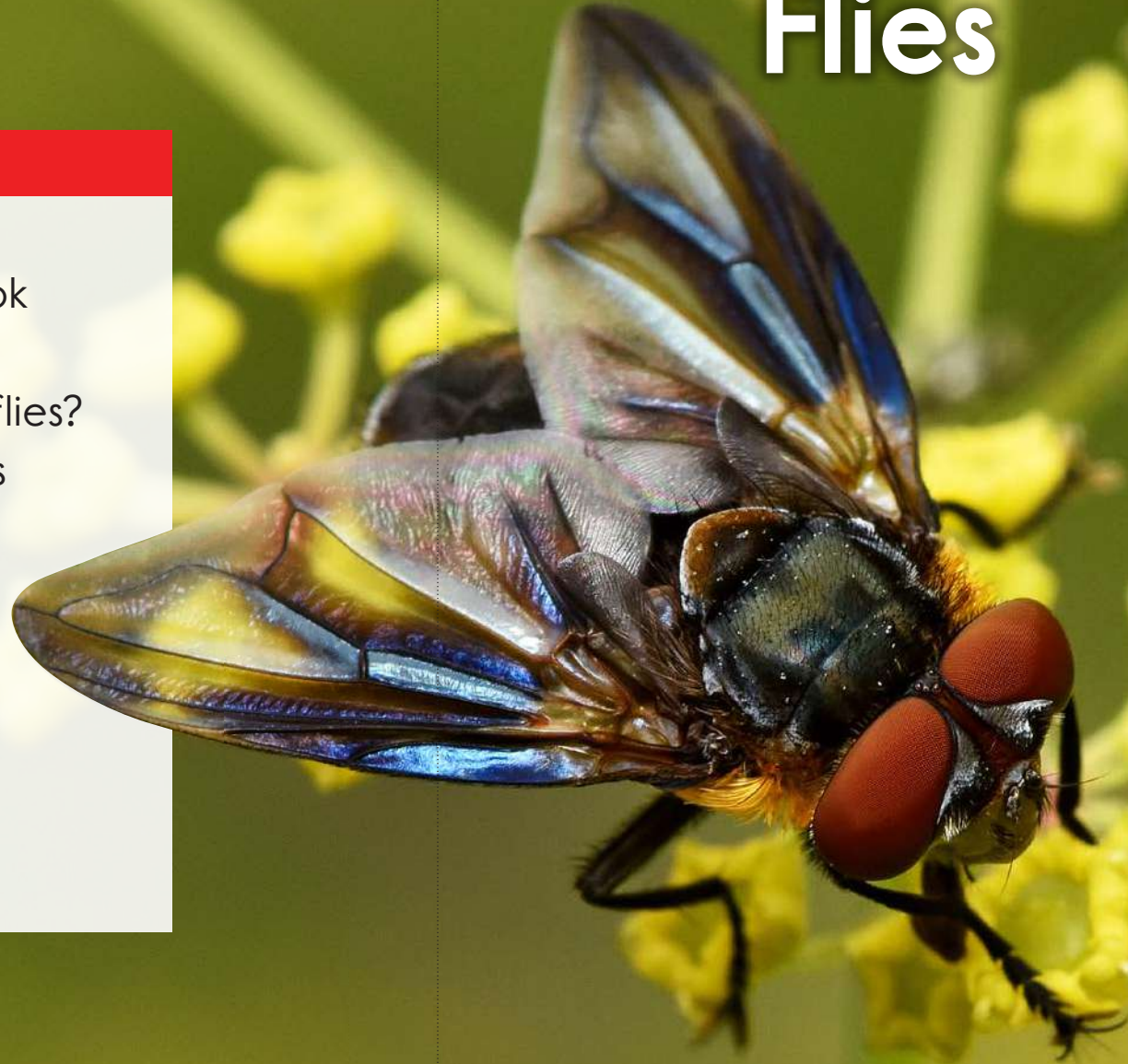
## Connections

### Writing

The last section of the book is called “Gross but Cool!” What do you think about flies? Write about it using details from the book.

### Science

Make a Venn diagram to compare a fly and another insect. Discuss with your class how the insects compare.



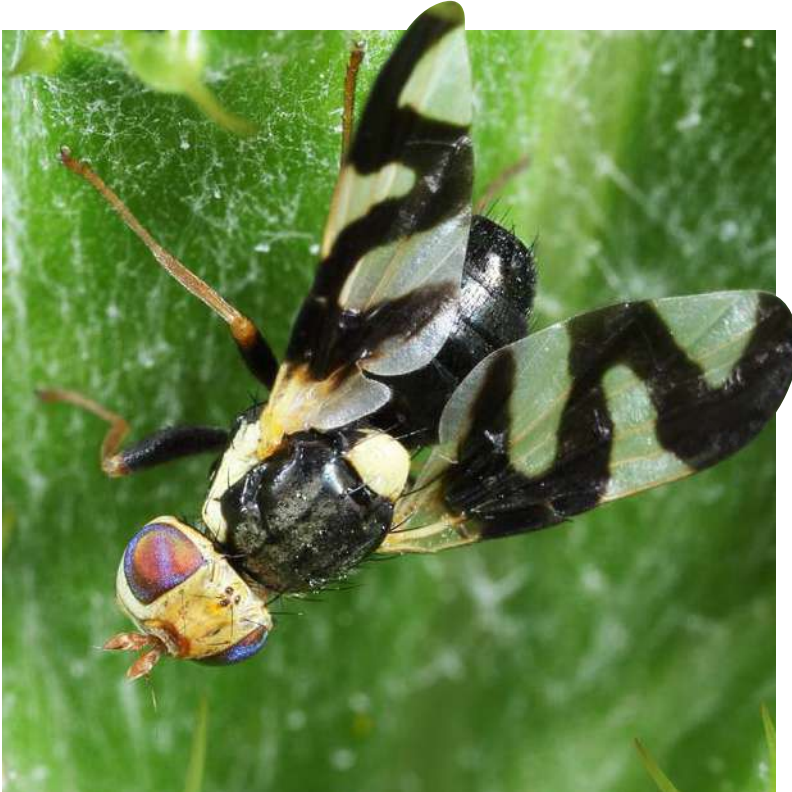
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Written by Anthony Curran

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## Focus Question

What does this book teach you about flies?

## Words to Know

germs	pollen
insects	pupa
larva	solid

Cover: A tachinid fly feeds on wild parsnip flowers.

Title page: A thistle gallfly sits on a thistle.

Page 3: Two green bottle flies feed on ripe blackberries.

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Flies

Level H Leveled Book

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## Correlation

### LEVEL H

Fountas & Pinnell	H
Reading Recovery	13-14
DRA	14





thistle gallfly

## Table of Contents

What Are Flies? .....	4
Fly Bodies .....	5
How Flies Grow and Change .....	7
How Adult Flies Eat .....	10
Flies and Germs .....	11
Why Flies Are Important .....	13
Gross but Cool! .....	15
Glossary .....	16



net-winged midge



bee flies

## What Are Flies?

Flies are **insects**.

There are many kinds of flies.



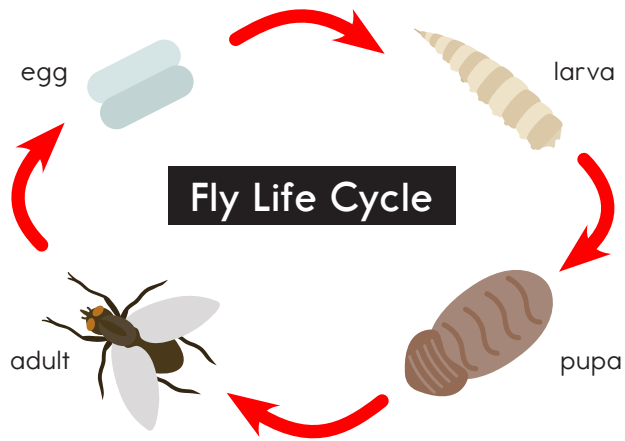
## Fly Bodies

Flies have one pair of wings.  
They also have tiny arms that help them steer when they fly.



Flies have eyes that let them see all around.  
Each eye is made up of many little eyes.





A horsefly laid hundreds of eggs on this plant next to a pond.

## How Flies Grow and Change

All flies start as eggs.

Each egg is tiny.



Out of the egg comes a **larva**.

The larva eats plants, fruits,  
or dead things.

When the larva is grown,  
it forms a hard cover.

It is now a **pupa**.



A new adult housefly must let its wings dry and spread out before it can fly.

The pupa changes inside the cover.  
When it comes out, it is an adult.  
Adult flies do not live very long.  
Their main job is to lay eggs  
to make more flies.



A blue bottle fly uses its sucking mouthpart to feed on kiwi fruit.

## How Adult Flies Eat

Adult flies drink all their food.  
They spit on **solid** food  
to turn it into goo.  
Then they drink the goo.





Dozens of flies feed on garbage.

## Flies and Germs

Flies sometimes pick up **germs** from the things they eat. Some of the germs can make people sick.



A horsefly sucks blood from a person.



Mosquitoes are one type of fly that can be dangerous to people.

Some flies suck blood. They can spread germs in the blood from one person to another.





This fly is feeding on the pollen on a flower. The pollen looks like a yellow powder.

## Why Flies Are Important

Flies spread **pollen**.

Many plants need pollen to make seeds.



Green bottle flies feed on a dead earthworm.



A bird feeds on a crane fly larva.

Flies help break down dead plants and animals.

Fly eggs and young are food for many other animals.





## Gross but Cool!

Flies are amazing insects!

## Glossary

- germs** (*n.*) tiny living things that can cause disease or sickness (p. 11)
- insects** (*n.*) small animals with six legs, three body parts, and usually two sets of wings (p. 4)
- larva** (*n.*) the immature form of an animal that goes through major body changes before it looks like an adult member of its kind (p. 8)
- pollen** (*n.*) male flower cells, which often look like fine yellow powder (p. 13)
- pupa** (*n.*) an immature insect in the stage between a larva and an adult (p. 8)
- solid** (*adj.*) having a firm, stable form or shape (p. 10)