

THE FLY

Elise Gravel



ACTIVITY GUIDE



TUNDRA BOOKS

DISGUSTING CRITTERS

DEAR EDUCATOR

The Fly is a hilarious illustrated non-fiction book about the housefly. With the perfect blend of scientific fact and humor, this book will surely have your students all abuzz! The activities and discussion prompts that follow will help your students use what they have learned to identify and describe some of the major physical and behavioral characteristics of the housefly, its lifecycle and predators, and check their understanding of this disgusting critter.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ELISE GRAVEL has always been fascinated by disgusting little creatures. At three-and-a-half, she founded the Organization for the Defense of Disgusting Critters, of which she was both president and the only member. Nowadays, when she's not busy petting a fly, worm, slug, rat, head lice or a spider, she writes and illustrates strange children's books.



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BUT, WAIT!

Before sharing the book with the class, read out the following clues:

- I am gray with black stripes.
- I am covered in hair.
- I can walk on the walls and ceiling.
- I spit on my food before I eat it.
- I am just over half a centimeter long.
- Who am I?

WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Discover what your students already know about houseflies. Consider using the following questions as prompts:

- Who has seen a housefly before?
- What did you notice about it?
- Did it make any noise?
- Where did you see it?
- What else do you know about houseflies?
- What do you want to know about houseflies?

THE BUZZ ABOUT HOUSEFLIES

Show what you have learned about houseflies. Circle the correct answer.

What do houseflies eat?

Hamburgers

Houses

Garbage

Ants

What color are houseflies?

Black with white polka dots

Gray with black stripes

Brown

Black with gray stripes

What shape is the housefly's mouth?

Sphere

Cone

Tube

Cube

How long can houseflies usually live?

Up to 30 days

10 days

2 years

3 months

What color are a housefly's eyes?

Black

Gray

Yellow

Red

The housefly is part of the *Muscidae/Drosophila* family.

The **female/male** housefly is bigger.

The housefly can only eat **solids/liquids**.

IT SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY HE WAS A MAGGOT

Draw and label the four stages of a housefly's life.

1.	2.
4.	3.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A HOUSEFLY

Write a journal entry from the perspective of a housefly. What did you do today? Where did you go? How did you get there? What and how did you eat? Who and what did you see? Did you see any of your predators? How did you escape?

DEAR DIARY,

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

Help the hungry housefly find his way to the garbage for some lunch!



FACT OR FICTION?

Ask your students to spread out along the wall of your classroom. Read out the following statements. If the statement is fact, students move a step. If the statement is fiction, they remain still.

1. There are over 400,000 different species of flies.
2. Spiders like to eat flies.
3. The male and female houseflies are the same size.
4. There are five stages to a housefly's life.
5. One way to keep houseflies out of your house is to keep your house clean.
6. The housefly is a maggot in its second stage of life.
7. Houseflies can spread germs.
8. Houseflies eat liquids.
9. A female fly can lay only one egg at a time.
10. Houseflies like humans because they provide a warm place to live.

INTERESTING OR DISGUSTING?

Write down two facts about the housefly that you found interesting.

1. _____
2. _____

Write down two facts about the housefly that you found totally disgusting.

1. _____
2. _____

Write down one more question that you have about houseflies.
