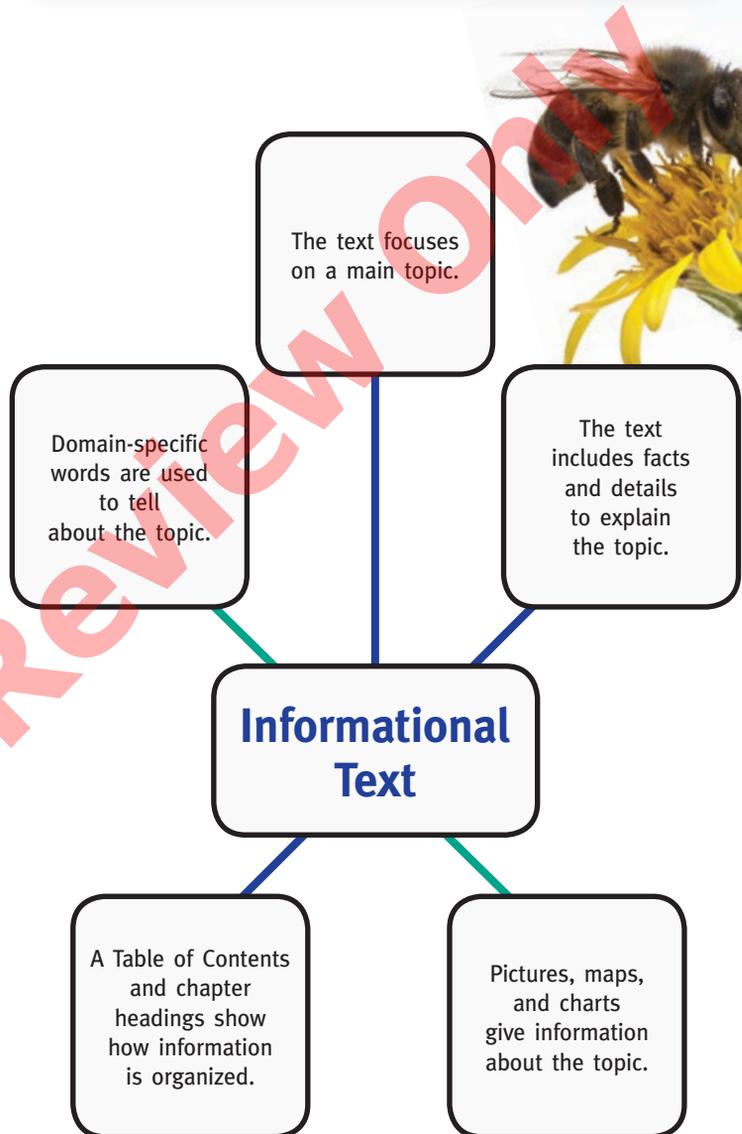


# All About Flies



# Informational Text

Look for the genre features noted below as you read this book. Use the features to help you understand the text.



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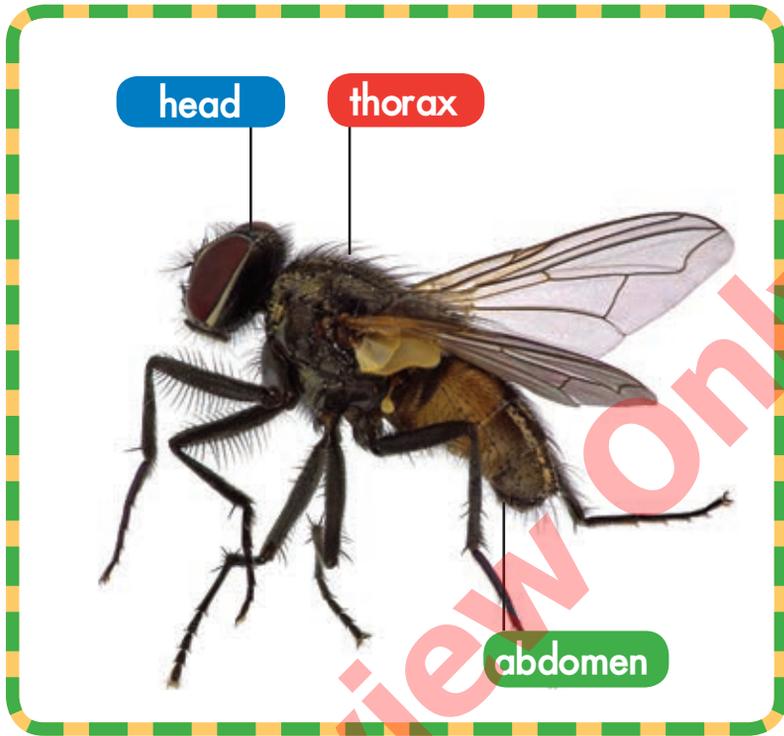
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# What Are Flies?

Flies are insects. There are hundreds of thousands of species of flies. Insects can be very different from one another, but all insects have some common characteristics. They all have six legs.





An insect's body is divided into three parts: the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. The head has the antennae, the eyes, and the mouth.

The thorax is the middle part. It is where the legs and wings are found.

The abdomen contains the stomach.

Although insects vary greatly in size, most, like flies, are small. Insects move around their environment in different ways. Some insects fly. Others walk or jump, and some even swim. Insects come in many different colors and shapes.



Thanks to flies and other insects, we have flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Insects are very important! Without insects, we wouldn't have honey, or wax, or even silk!

▼ Bees are also insects.





▲ Flies have two wings.

You probably think flies are **annoying** insects and you try to swat them, but flies are interesting insects. A fly's body has some incredible features.

Most insects have four wings, but flies have only two. Some flies beat their wings around 200 times per second. They stop beating them as soon as they stop flying.



Have you ever asked yourself why it's so hard to catch a fly? Flies are very sensitive to movement. A fly's eyes have thousands of lenses. Each lens is like a tiny **telescope** that points in all directions. That's why flies can see us coming and escape!

#### Eyes Wide Open

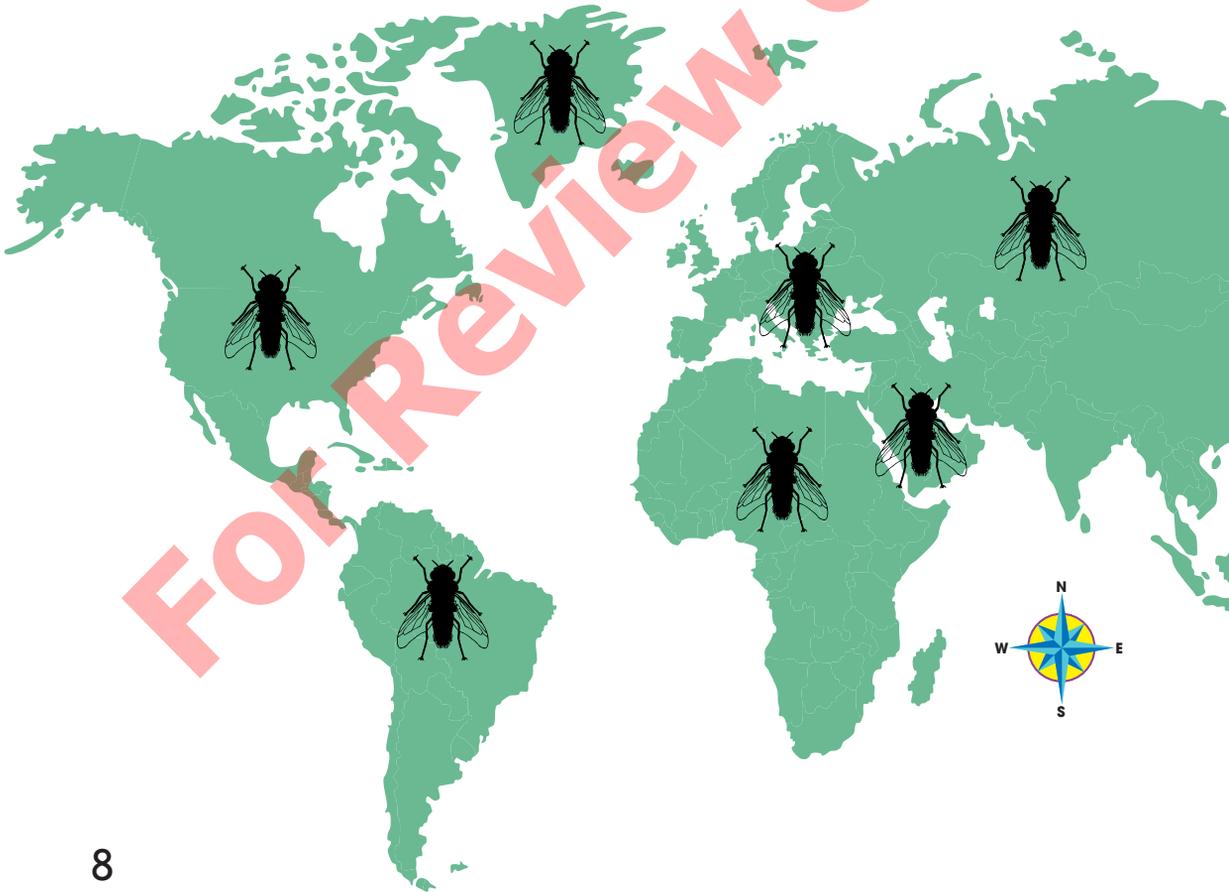
Flies don't have eyelids. They keep their eyes clean by rubbing them with their front legs.



# Where Do Flies Live?

Flies live everywhere there is a source of food. They live in houses. They live in restaurants. They live near pets and animals.

▼ Flies live all around the world.



Flies often live around rotten food and animal waste. They can be found near garbage cans, and in places like horse stables and fields where animals graze.

### Walking on Walls

Flies can walk on all kinds of surfaces. The bottom of their feet is padded with tiny hairs that are sticky, almost like glue. This enables flies to walk upside down on windows, walls, or ceilings.

