

Flies and Mosquitoes

Sally Cowan



PM

Flies and Mosquitoes

Level 22

Running Words 775 **Text Type** Information Report

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Science (Biological Sciences); Humanities (Geography)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the information report in their own words.
Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

- 1 When are flies mostly active? When are mosquitoes mostly active?
- 2 What are the four stages of the life cycle of flies and mosquitoes?
- 3 What are some animals that eat flies and mosquitoes?

Inferential

- 4 Why do mosquitoes stay close to wetlands and streams?
- 5 Why can't most flies and mosquitoes eat solid food?
- 6 Why might flies need special flying skills?
- 7 How might we know that there are mosquitoes nearby?
- 8 Why can birds be tricked by a hoverfly's markings?

Applied Knowledge

- 9 What can people do to prevent mosquitoes biting them while they are asleep?
- 10 What are some areas around our homes that might attract mosquitoes?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 22	Information Report	<i>Butterflies and Moths</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Bees and Wasps</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Bugs</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Grasshoppers and Crickets</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Beetles</i>



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What Are Flies and Mosquitoes?

Flies and mosquitoes are flying insects with two wings.

There are thousands of different kinds of flies and mosquitoes.

Some common flies include the housefly, the blowfly and the tiny fruit fly.

These flies are usually grey or brown with stripes, but some blowflies are shiny blue or green.

Flies are mostly active during the day.



Mosquitoes are insects that bite.

Most kinds of mosquitoes are grey or brown.

They are mostly active in the evening and at night.



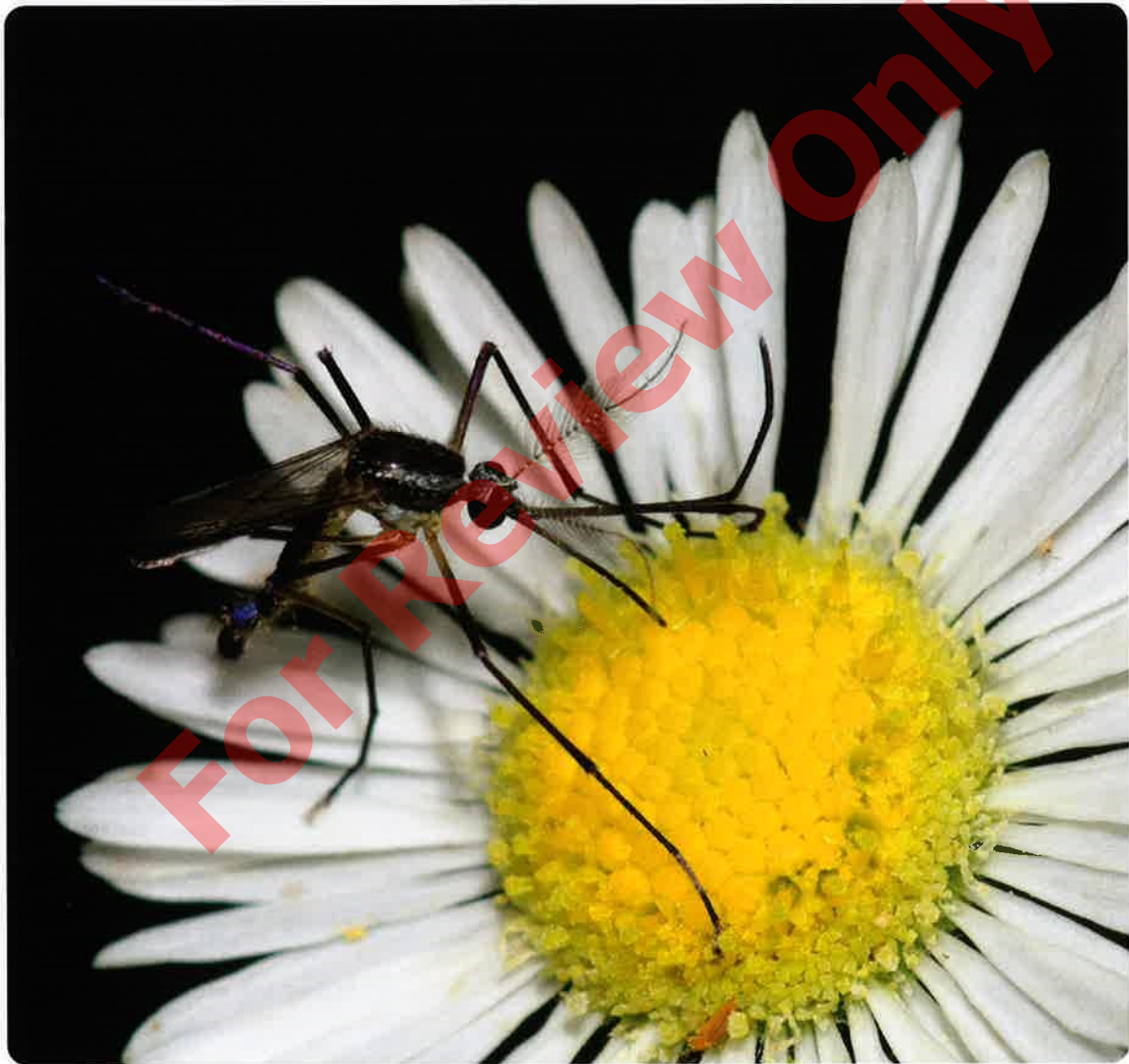
Flies and mosquitoes have six legs.
Their bodies are small, usually
between 1 and 7 millimetres long.
But there are some larger kinds of flies.

Flies have hairy bodies.
Their feet have pads and claws
that help them to cling to different surfaces
and land upside down on ceilings.



This robber fly is clinging to a leaf with its claws.

Mosquitoes have thin, **fragile** bodies and very long legs. They can land on flowers and other surfaces with the thin tips of their legs.



Most flies have soft, tube-like mouthparts for sucking up juices.

Mosquitoes have long, sharp tubes for pricking skin and sucking blood from animals and people.

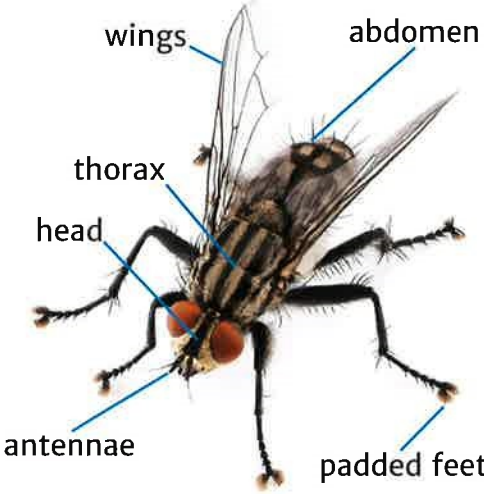
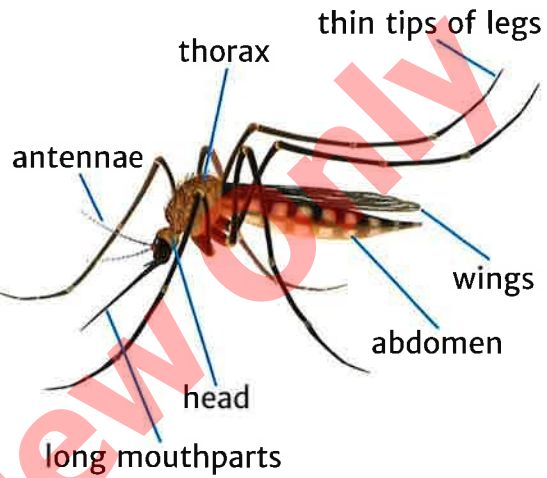
Flies and mosquitoes smell food with their **antennae** (say: *an-ten-ee*). Their large **compound eyes** allow them to see movement in front or behind.

All insects have three main body parts: the head, the thorax and the abdomen.



Mosquitoes have large compound eyes.

Differences Between Flies and Mosquitoes

Flies	Mosquitoes
 A detailed illustration of a fly from a top-down perspective. Labels with blue lines point to various parts: 'wings' (pointing to the transparent wings), 'abdomen' (pointing to the segmented rear body), 'thorax' (pointing to the middle body section), 'head' (pointing to the head with large red eyes), 'antennae' (pointing to the short, thick antennae), and 'padded feet' (pointing to the thick, jointed legs).	 A detailed illustration of a mosquito from a side profile. Labels with blue lines point to various parts: 'thorax' (pointing to the middle body section), 'thin tips of legs' (pointing to the long, thin legs), 'antennae' (pointing to the long, segmented antennae), 'wings' (pointing to the narrow wings), 'abdomen' (pointing to the segmented body), 'head' (pointing to the head), and 'long mouthparts' (pointing to the long, needle-like proboscis).
mostly active during the day	mostly active in the evening and at night
small, hairy, sturdy body	thin, fragile body
hairy legs	long, thin legs
feet with pads and claws	thin tips of legs
rounded wings	narrow wings
short, stiff antennae	longer antennae
soft or sharp mouthparts	long, thin, sharp mouthparts