READING COMPREHENSION

THE HATEFUL HOUSEFLY

Everyone in the world has at some time been bothered by the housefly. These pesky insects follow wherever man goes. They are even seen at sea, flourishing in ships.

Because it is so small, few people realize what a frightening sight the housefly is. Near the eyes are two short, thick antennae that can detect movement, warn the fly of danger, as well as lead him to food. Files eat anything; the 'only basic requirement is that the food is liquid. The resourceful fly can dissolve such substances as sugar, potato, or a spot of grease, by spitting on it. He can then suck it up through the mouth.

Files are **monumentally** stupid. Worms, snails, and cockroaches learn, but no one has ever been able to detect any learning ability in files. They are active only when they are hungry. The rest of the time they merely stand around, sometimes upside down, clinging on with two tiny claws at the end of each foot, or, if necessary, gluing themselves on with a sticky substance secreted in the base of each foot.

Wherever flies go, they carry diseases. Typhoid, cholera, and tuberculosis are only a few of the germs they carry.

1. "**Everyone in the world has at some time been bothered by the housefly**." This quote from the poem suggests that…

   A. Flies migrate to nest

   B. Flies are annoying creatures.

   C. Flies are attracted to by dark clothing

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. What is the function of the antenna of the fly? Choose 2

   A. It warns them of danger

   B. It allows them to see

   C. It helps them secrete

   D. It leads them to food

3. What is the best definition for each word based on how they are used in the passage?

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
pesky	**A.** intelligent
resourceful	**B.** annoying
monumentally	**C.** capable
	D. extremely

4. How is a fly able to eat a piece of potato? Use the numbers 1, 2, and 3 to show the sequence by which flies eat a potato.

   _____ the food turns to liquid

   _____ the food is broken into smaller pieces

   _____ the food is softened by the fly's vomit

   _____ the food is taken in through the mouth

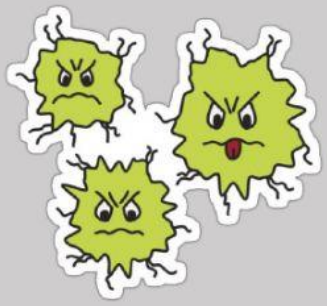
5. Which disease is **NOT** caused by the fly?

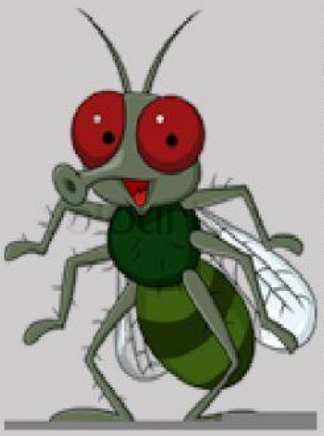
   A. typhoid

   B. dengue

   C. cholera

   D. tuberculosis





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