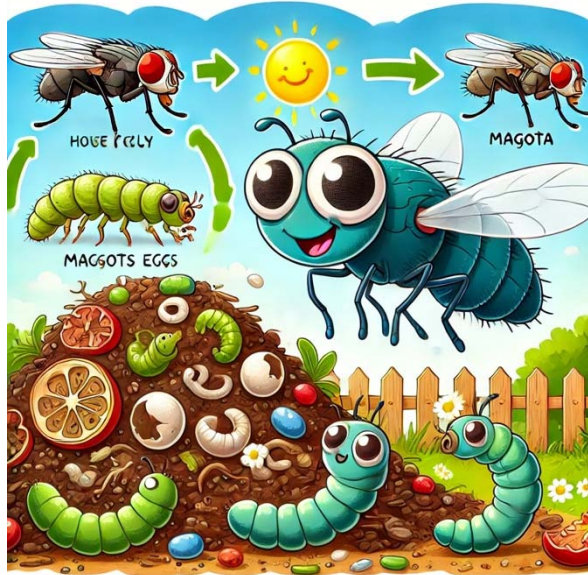


Name _____



How Do Houseflies Multiply?

Houseflies may seem simple, but their reproduction process is fascinating! These tiny insects have a unique way of ensuring their species thrives. Let's explore how houseflies reproduce and care for their young.

Houseflies begin their reproductive cycle with mating. Male houseflies are known for their energetic behavior when searching for a mate. They approach females by using their sense of smell and sight. Once a pair mates, the female is ready to lay her eggs, often within hours.

A female housefly lays her eggs in warm, moist places where food is available. Common spots include garbage, compost piles, or manure. These locations provide the perfect environment for her eggs to develop. A female housefly can lay about 75 to 150 eggs at a time, and she may lay up to 500 eggs in her lifetime! The gestation period for housefly eggs is very short—just one day! The eggs hatch into tiny, worm-like larvae called maggots. Maggots feed on the organic matter where the eggs were laid, helping them grow quickly. After about a week, the maggots form a hard shell, called a pupa, where they transform into adult flies.

Unlike some animals, houseflies do not care for their young. Once the eggs are laid, the female flies move on to find more food or lay more eggs. This independence allows houseflies to reproduce rapidly and in large numbers.

The entire lifecycle of a housefly, from egg to adult, takes about 10 to 21 days depending on the temperature and environment. With so many offspring and a short development time, houseflies can quickly increase their population, making them one of the most common insects on Earth.