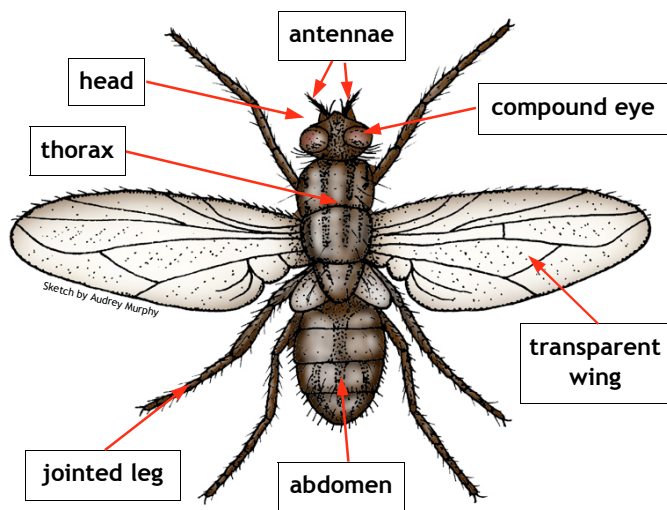


The House Fly



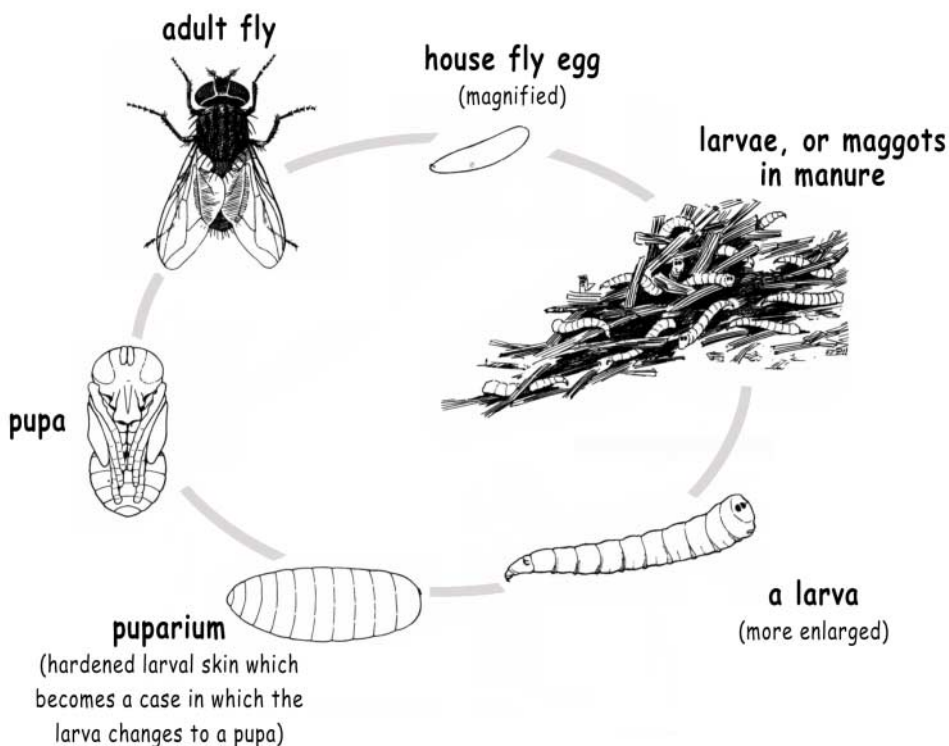
Latin Name: *Musca domestica* Irish Name: Cuil tí



Many people will have chased a house-fly around their kitchen at some time or other, often with a swatter in their hand! House-flies can be seen all year round but are more common in summer months. Though the house-fly does not bite humans, it does carry many germs on its legs and mouthparts from other surfaces on to our food. Using special substances in their body, called enzymes, the fly turns food in to liquid and then drinks it. It can lay roughly 150 eggs on any material on which the young larvae will feed (such as meat and vegetables). It is important to discourage flies by not leaving food out and uncovered. Throughout the world, it is considered one of the worst pests.

The Life Cycle of a House-fly

The life cycle of the house-fly can take 10 to 21 days to complete and in one year, there can be 10 to 12 generations of house-fly. Imagine that family tree!



How does a fly walk on the ceiling?

If you study a house-fly for a while, you will see that it is able to walk across the ceiling and up vertical walls with ease. To do this, it uses tiny bristles or hairs on the underside of its feet to grab on to microscope bumps or fissures on the surface of the wall or ceiling. If they come across a surface which is perfectly smooth, the fly can produce a sticky substance to help it hold on.