

*Interactive Notebook Pages*

# Informational Texts

Things I Didn't Know  
About Animals

**Focusing on  
Main Ideas and Supporting Details**



Copyright © 2015 Margaret Whisnant  
All rights reserved by author.

# Interactive Notebook Pages

## Informational Text

### *Things I Didn't Know About Animals*

The 12 informational texts in this set are formatted for use in an interactive notebook. They can be combined with other reading activities or used as a full unit. The material can also be adapted for literacy folders.

Every lesson contains a **short text with 3-5 CCSS aligned questions and response pages**.

- The first two CCSS questions focus on the article's main idea and its supporting details. Others address a variety of skills including cause and effect, sequencing, inference, and using context clues to determine word meaning. Students may write answers directly on the page. When an A, B, C, or D choice is required, it is suggested that they circle the answer. **Answer Keys** are provided on the last three pages of this file.
- The **top portion of the two-layer response pages** asks students to answer two "I think" question. Responses should be at least two sentences.
- The **second layer** gives students a choice of **writing** about the topic—a poem, a song, a statement, etc.—**creating artwork** inspired by the topic, or **asking questions** that address other things they want to know about the topic. Allow students to do more than one activity if they wish.
- Teachers may choose to use the two response pages provided or simply leave the left page blank for other assigned activities or student choice.

The reading level is appropriate for most 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The material can be used to teach, reinforce, or remediate the targeted CCSS skills. Some 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders may also find these texts beneficial.

Writing has begun on a companion set of texts—*Things I Didn't Know about Inventions*.

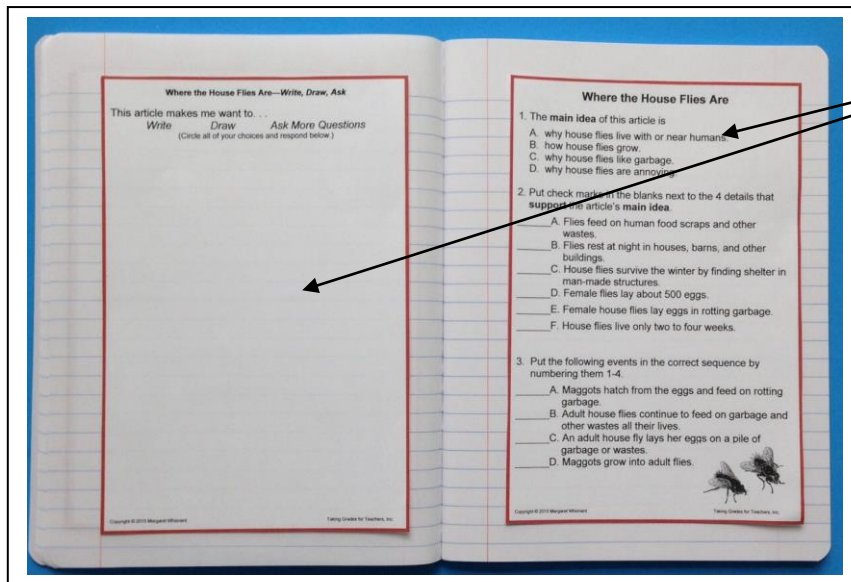


Margaret Whisnant

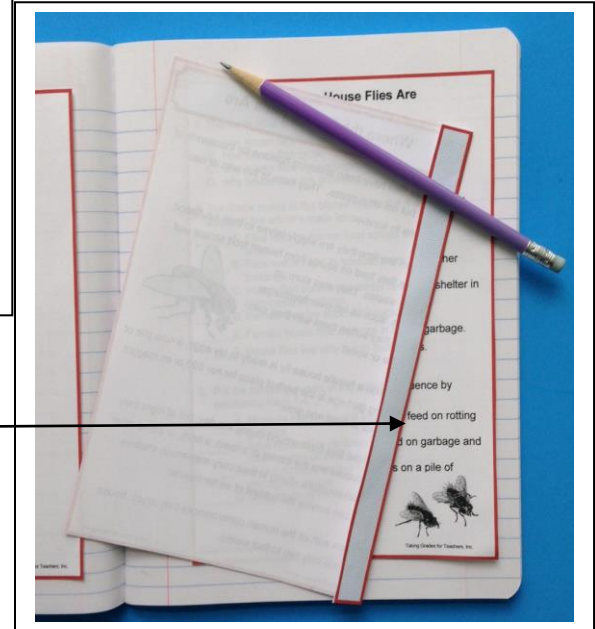
Copyright © 2015 Margaret Whisnant  
All rights reserved by author.

Permission to copy for single classroom use only.  
Electronic distribution limited to single classroom use.  
Not for storage on any website without password protection.

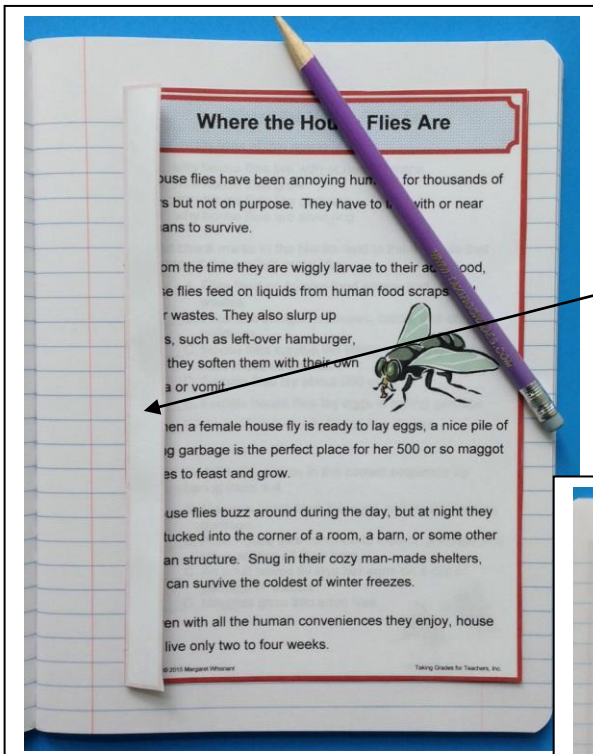
# Assembly Instructions



Step 1: Glue base pages to notebook, using page lines as guides for placement.

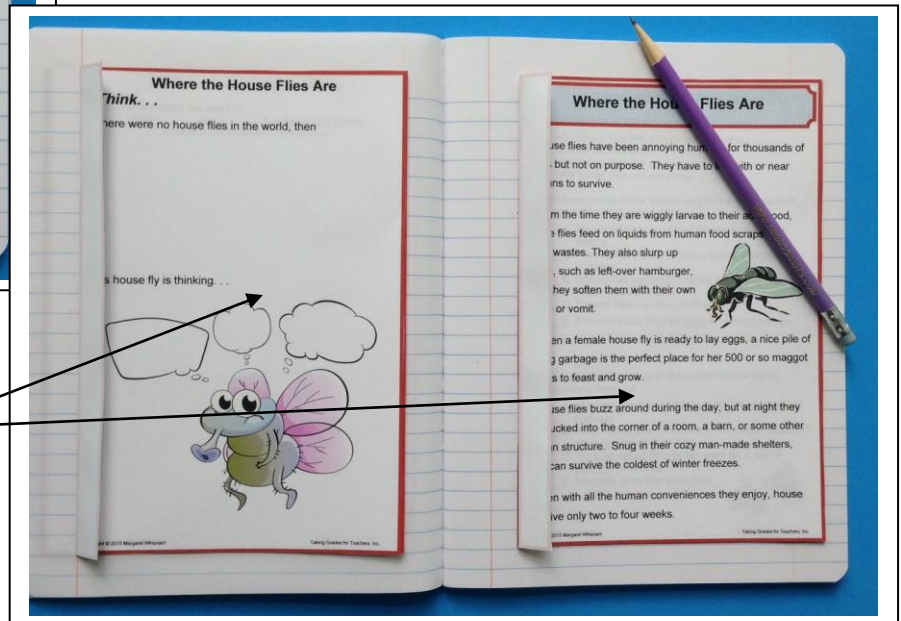


Step 2: Prepare tab-hinges by first folding the section back, taking care to crease tab so that the red border is visible.

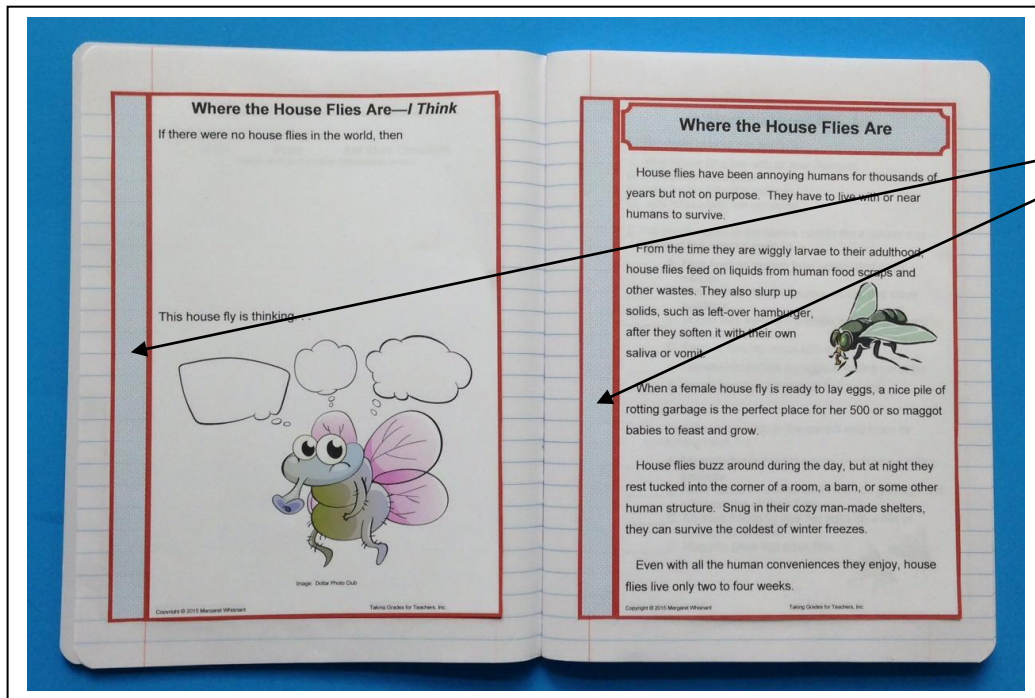


Step 3: Fold tab-hinge in opposite direction and apply glue to back side.

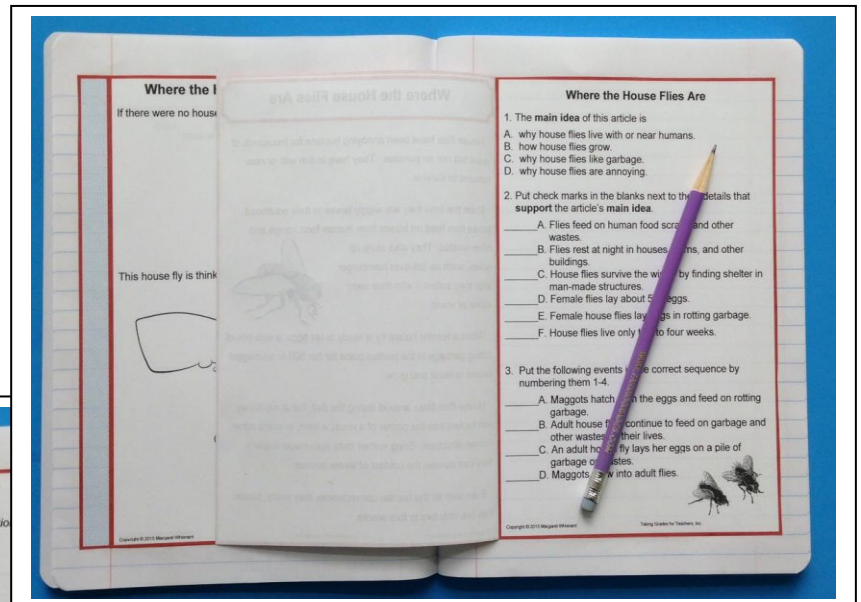
Step 4: Carefully line up hinged pages over base pages.



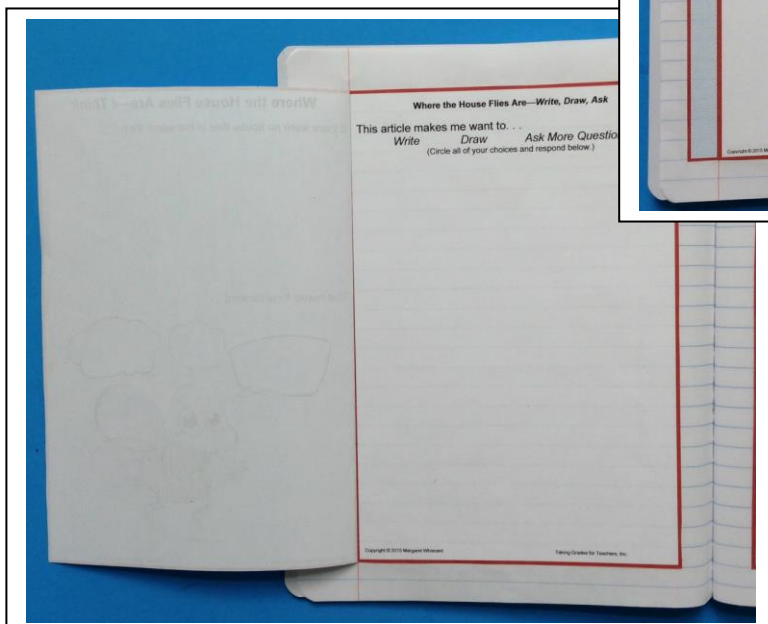
## Assembly Instructions--Continued



Step 5: Attach pages by folding glued tab-hinges onto notebook page.



Flip top pages to answer questions and enter responses.



## Lesson 2: Text

### Where the House Flies Are

House flies have been annoying humans for thousands of years but not on purpose. They have to live with or near humans to survive.

From the time they are wiggly larvae to their adulthood, house flies feed on liquids from human food scraps and other wastes. They also slurp up solids, such as left-over hamburger, after they soften them with their own saliva or vomit.



When a female house fly is ready to lay eggs, a nice pile of rotting garbage is the perfect place for her 500 or so maggot babies to feast and grow.

House flies buzz around during the day, but at night they rest tucked into the corner of a room, a barn, or some other human structure. Snug in their cozy man-made shelters, they can survive the coldest of winter freezes.

Even with all the human conveniences they enjoy, house flies live only two to four weeks.

## Lesson 2: Questions

### Where the House Flies Are

1. The **main idea** of this article is

- A. why house flies live with or near humans.
- B. how house flies grow.
- C. why house flies like garbage.
- D. why house flies are annoying.

2. Put check marks in the blanks next to the 4 details that **support** the article's **main idea**.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. Flies feed on human food scraps and other wastes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. Flies rest at night in houses, barns, and other buildings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. House flies survive the winter by finding shelter in man-made structures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ D. Female flies lay about 500 eggs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ E. Female house flies lay eggs in rotting garbage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ F. House flies live only two to four weeks.

3. Put the following events in the correct sequence by numbering them 1-4.

- \_\_\_\_\_ A. Maggots hatch from the eggs and feed on rotting garbage.
- \_\_\_\_\_ B. Adult house flies continue to feed on garbage and other wastes all their lives.
- \_\_\_\_\_ C. An adult house fly lays her eggs on a pile of garbage or wastes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ D. Maggots grow into adult flies.

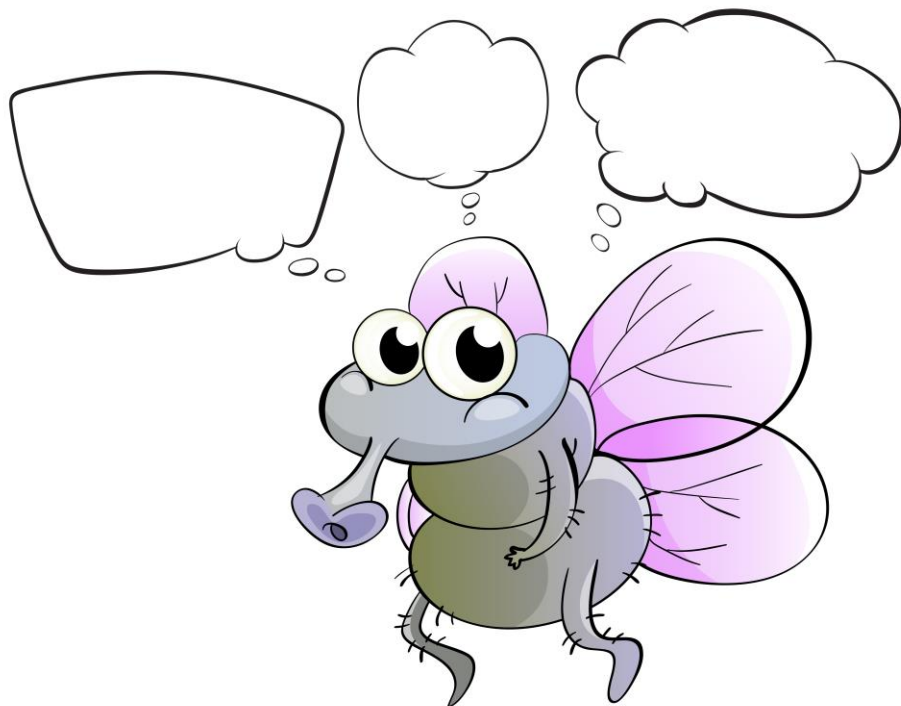


## Lesson 2: Response Form—Top Layer

### Where the House Flies Are *I Think. . .*

If there were no house flies in the world, then

This house fly is thinking. . .



## Lesson 2: Response Form—Second Layer

**Where the House Flies Are—*Write, Draw, Ask***

This article makes me want to. . .

*Write*

*Draw*

*Ask More Questions*

(Circle all of your choices and respond below.)

## Answer Keys

### Where the House Flies are *Answer Card*

1.   A  

2.   ✓     A  

  ✓     B  

  ✓     C  

         D  

  ✓     E  

         F  

(Facts D and F do not explain why  
house flies live with or near  
humans.)

3.   2     A  

  4     B  

  1     C  

  3     D  

## Cited Sources

22001 *Fascinating Facts* by David Louis, 1963 The Ridge Press, Inc. and Crown Publishers, Inc. a Division of Randomhouse Value Publishing, Inc., Avenel, New jersey 07001

[BugFacts.net](http://BugFacts.net)

[OMGFacts.com](http://OMGFacts.com)

[About.com: Why Spiders Build Webs and More Fun Facts](http://About.com: Why Spiders Build Webs and More Fun Facts)

[Fun Trivia: Spiders](http://Fun Trivia: Spiders)

[Science.com](http://Science.com)

[PekingeseCentral.com](http://PekingeseCentral.com)

[BrainPop.com](http://BrainPop.com)

[Ask.com](http://Ask.com)

[HowStuffWorks.com](http://HowStuffWorks.com)

[Wikipedia.org/Giraffe](http://Wikipedia.org/Giraffe)

[Wikipedia.org/HighJump](http://Wikipedia.org/HighJump)

[Cyberbee.com](http://Cyberbee.com)

[Onekind.org](http://Onekind.org)

[ListVerst: Animals That Used to Be Mythical](#)

[Smithsonian: In Ancient Rome, Purple Dye Was Made From Rome](#)

[Human Touch of Chemistry.com](http://HumanTouchofChemistry.com)

[Wikipedia-Hydra](#)

[Microscope.org--Hydra](http://Microscope.org--Hydra)

## **Clip Art Sources**

[Graphics Factory](#)

[Fotolia](#)

[Dollar Photo Club](#)

[Clipart, Etc.](#) (University of Florida)

[WPClipart](#)

[Ron Leishman Toon Clipart](#)

[Open Clipart.org](#)

[Public Domain Clipart](#)