

Excerpt from “**Insect Pollinators**”

by Melissa Tonachel

Flies

Flies are pollinators. There are many different species of flies. They visit flowers for nectar, for pollen, to lay eggs, or to feed on other smaller insects that might be on the plants. Many flowers that attract flies smell terrible, like rotten meat!

Scientists and farmers believe that flies like the bluebottle fly are the most important pollinator for mangoes.



A blue bottle fly picks up pollen from a mango flower.



Hoverflies look like honeybees, but they are flies. They are important pollinators for carrots and avocados.

A hoverfly visits an avocado flower.

Mosquitos are a type of fly. Nectar is mosquitos' most important food. Mosquitos also feed on blood. That's why they bite people and other animals. Some orchids give off a smell like a human body smell to attract mosquitos.



A mosquito drinks nectar from an orchid.

1. Which of the following is **not** true about why flies visit flowers?
- a. for nectar
 - b. for pollen
 - c. to feed on smaller insects
 - d. to be with other flies**

2. Reread the sentences below.

Many flowers that **attract** flies smell terrible, like rotten meat!

Some orchids give off a smell like a human body smell to **attract** mosquitos.

What does the word “attract” mean?

- a. to disgust
 - b. to draw close**
 - c. to excite
 - d. to upset
3. What is the main idea of this section of the text? Use evidence from the text and the photographs to explain your thinking.

More space to write on the other side of the paper

Add an illustration to show your ideas about the main idea of this section.

