



**WEEK 3:**

**GROSS-ODOGY**

## ARE YOU READY FOR SOME SMELLY, ICKY, GROSS FUN?

Have you ever encountered something that smelled, looked, felt or tasted gross? There is a good reason! We can have a negative reaction to gross things to help protect ourselves from things that may be bad to eat or touch. However, that doesn't mean they are all bad. There are many things we might consider gross—from mold and bugs to germs and scat, but they are all an important part of our world! Mold might smell and look gross and bugs, like flies, might give us that creepy crawly feeling, but both are important decomposers. Decomposers break down waste and dead things, and put those nutrients into the soil so that plants and other living things can survive and grow. Germs can make us feel sick, but there are kinds of good bacteria that help animals and humans digest food or even provide them with vitamins. Scat may smell stinky and look mushy or slimy, but it can help fertilize plants and can tell scientists about what animals might eat, their health and where they have been.

**DAY 1:**

**FLY FOOD FEAST**

You've probably seen flies buzzing around you when you eat outside, landing on your plate, food, trash and even you! Flies need food survive like we do, but they eat their food in a very different way. They don't have teeth to chew, instead flies have a long, straw-like mouthpart that is used to slurp up liquid food. If they find food that isn't liquid, they turn it into liquid by throwing up saliva on it! All of this takes time, though, and flies need to move quickly when eating their food to avoid being swatted at or becoming food themselves. One way that flies are able to quickly find food is by having taste buds on their feet instead of in their mouths. This means that flies can figure out if they want to eat something just by landing on it without having to take the time to turn it into liquid and suck it up. The next time a fly lands on your food, remember that they're finding out what it tastes like!

**Before you start, you should have:**

- An area where you can move around or run
- Things you can jump or land on (placemats, paper plates, pieces of paper or pillows will work)
- Optional: tape

## To play:

- 1) Set the boundaries for the area you are playing in.
- 2) Choose up to 10 things that you can jump on. These will all be pieces of "food."
- 3) Spread the food around the area you are playing in, making sure they are close enough to each other that you can reach them when you jump (you may need to tape them to the ground).
- 4) You are a fly who wants to taste every piece of food that's around the area, which means your feet need to touch every piece.
- 5) Your goal is to jump to every piece of food, but there's a catch; you can only touch them with your feet!
- 6) If you jump and don't land on the food, you have to start over.
- 7) If you land on the food but touch it with anything other than your feet, you have to start over.
- 8) You win once you've touched every piece of food with only your feet!

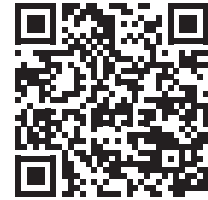
## Keep Exploring!

- Use a timer to see how long it takes you to jump to each piece of food, then try to beat that time.
- Label each piece of food with a name or picture of a type of food (example: strawberry, cheese, candy, etc.) and ask a partner to hide them on the floor or ground in your playing area. They will call out the name of a food and you will "fly" around until you find it and touch it with your foot.
- Challenge a partner to race with you. Each player will start on the same food piece, and the first fly to touch them all wins!

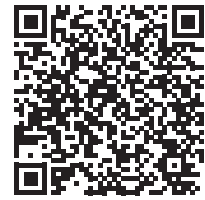
## What did you find?

What did you discover? Upload a photo or video and tag the Sam Noble Museum on Instagram or Facebook. You can also use the hashtags **#samnoblehome** and **#summerexplorers** to share!

## More information on how flies and other insects taste their food:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiBBm9u2ex4>



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2018/09/insects-butterflies-anatomy-senses-animals/>



Sam Noble Home



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