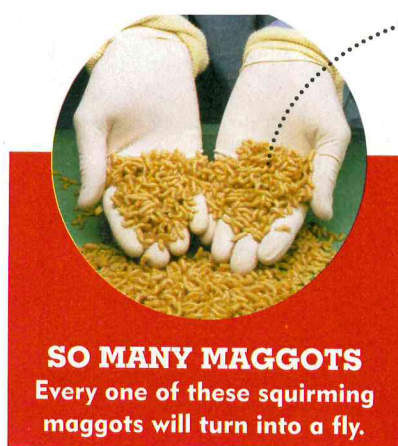


treatments work: In a clean lab, scientists hatch fly eggs. Doctors then place 5 to 10 maggots on an open wound. They cover the wound with a bandage.

Then it's chow time. The maggots eat for up to three days. Most patients say it's not too awful . . . except for the smelly goop that drips from under the bandage.

As maggots eat, they turn dead flesh into a liquid mush that they slurp up. (Maggots



SO MANY MAGGOTS
Every one of these squirming maggots will turn into a fly.

don't have teeth.) Their bodies make a chemical that helps new flesh grow on the patient. The maggots stop snacking once the rotten stuff is gone.

Maggots can be more precise than surgeons.

Surgeons can't always see the difference between living and dead flesh. And studies have shown that maggot treatments can work better than some medicines.

That was certainly true for Lucas. He got 40 maggot treatments in six months. He recovered from his wound.

So sure, maggots are gross. But the next time you see a wiggly pile of them, remember: Maggots can also save lives. •

Action Activity

How do maggots help save lives?

Write a paragraph to answer this question. Get started by using facts from the article to finish the sentences below.

Remember to indent the first sentence!

Topic Sentence

Maggots are gross, but they can help save lives by

The main idea of your paragraph: What can maggots do to help patients?

Detail 1

Doctors place

What do doctors do with maggots?

Detail 2

The maggots

What are two things maggots do to help patients?

Detail 3

Maggots can be a good choice for medical treatment because

Why are maggots sometimes better than medicine or surgery?

Conclusion

So when you see those gross little maggots, remember that

Restate the important idea from your topic sentence: How are maggots useful?

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