

G L O S S A R Y

cyst: A pearly shell in the intermediate host's muscle. It is the middle stage in the tapeworm life cycle.

enzyme: A protein made by the tapeworm larva to chemically eat through the intestinal wall.

feces: Bowel movements or wastes that are passed out of the body.

host: The animal or person in which a parasite lives.

intermediate host: The in-between animal in which tapeworm cysts must live before they can grow into tapeworms.

intestine: The coiled tube part of the digestive system, below the stomach. In the intestines, digestion is finished and food absorbed, and then wastes are passed out of the body.

Koran: The sacred book of Islam.

larva, larvae: The newly hatched, earli-

est stage of tapeworm growth. Larvae is plural.

life cycle: The different stages of development a tapeworm goes through, from egg to larva to cyst to mature animal to producing eggs again.

myth: A popular story, legend, or belief that is not based in fact.

parasite: An animal that feeds on or grows in another animal without giving anything in return.

scolex: Headlike part of the tapeworm that holds fast to the intestine with suckers and hooks.

segment: Any one of the hundreds of sections or parts of the tapeworm's body that makes eggs.

seizure: A sudden attack of brain malfunction causing loss of consciousness, loss of muscle control, or confusion.

F O R F U R T H E R E X P L O R A T I O N

Book

Brian Ward, *Epidemic*. New York: Dorling Kindersley, 2000.

This book describes many different types of parasites and diseases.

Websites

Welcome to Worm Learn (<http://home.austernet.com>).

This website is for high school students, but clicking the different images will show interesting pictures of human and animal tapeworms and other parasites.

The Yuckiest Site on the Internet (<http://yucky.kids.discovery.com>). Visit Wendell Worm and read his interview with his cousin, Tommi Tapeworm.