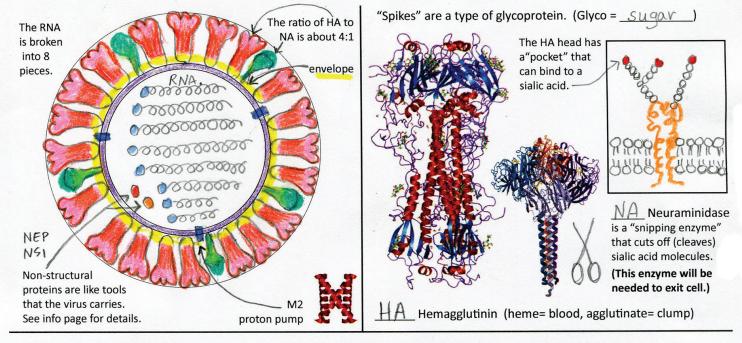
5(b): HOW INFLUENZA ENTERS CELLS

Influenza A is one of the most studied viruses of all time. Its binding site, sialic acid, was the first virus receptor to be discovered (1985). Its genome and its glycoprotein structures have been completely mapped.



Influenzas are named according to the structure of their HAs and NAs. As the virus replicates (billions upon billions of times) small changes occur. The first variations that were mapped were called H1 and N1. (This corresponds to the flu pandemic of 1918.) As more variations were found, they were named by number (H2, H3, H4, etc.).



