



Honey Bee

Picture It!

Check out these pictures of Bees and their habitat!



Honey Bees

What's the gist?

- In the early 1600's colonists from Europe brought honey bees with them to North America.
- Honey bees are social insects.
- They live in organized colonies.
- A colony can number from 20,000 to 50,000 bees.
- Every colony has one queen bee, a few hundred drones, and the remainder made up of worker bees.
- The queen bee can live up to seven years, though her average life span is 2-5 years.
- Her sole function is to lay eggs, laying up to 2,000 eggs per day.
- The drones are the only males in the colony.
- Their purpose is to mate with the queen.
- Workers bees make up 90% of a colony.
- They are female bees who serve the queen, doing all the work in and outside of the hive.
- They take care of the larva, even choosing which larva will become queens, keep the colony clean, protect the hive from possible danger from intruders, and most importantly forage for nectar and pollen.
- The worker is the smallest member of the hive, and the only member that has a stinger it will use if threatened.
- This busy bee can live about five weeks.
- A worker bee may visit up to 200 flowers a day collecting food for the bees in the hive.
- An active colony of honey bees can produce about 2.2 lbs (1 kg) of honey a day!
- The honeycomb is a hexagonal structure or six-sided wax structure found inside a hive. It is used as a nursery, where the queen lays eggs, and bees undergo development called metamorphosis.
- The honeycomb is also a place to store honey.
- Honey bees do a waggle dance, (follow link to video below), to communicate to other bees information about flowers they have found, including the direction, the distance, and the quality of the flowers.

Learning Links

Take a look at these materials to further your experience!

Read a story, Listen to a story, Take a tour here: <https://bit.ly/30v3yAQ>

Sesame Street: B is for Bees

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgU9mezBJ0U>

How Do Honeybees Get Their Jobs? | National Geographic:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ePic3dtykk>

How to Harvest Honey! | Beekeeping with Maddie #12:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnhmxNoo4EY>

Bees For Kids What's the Waggle Dance? And Why Do Honey Bees Do It?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU_KD1enR3Q

The Honey Files: A Bee's Life:

<http://www.browningshoney.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/honey-files-a-bees-life.pdf>

Activity Corner

Check out these awesome activities for an enriching learning experience!

Visit the LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens Pollinator Gardens to learn more about bees using the interactive signage and ride on the backs of bees and climb our honeycomb.

Honey Lee Life Cycle Cards:

<https://www.preschoolpowolpackets.blogspot.com/2015/05/free-honey-bee-life-cycle-cards.html>

Paint Bee Rocks for Your Garden:

<https://craftlearnandplay.com/stone-ladybugs-and-bees/>

Bee Paper Plate Craft:

<https://www.artycraftykids.com/craft/paper-plate-bee-craft/>

Make a Mason Bee House: (native bee house):

<https://www.turningclockback.com/diy-mason-bee-house/>

Bee and Honeycomb Kid Coloring Sheet:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/488570259572100639/>

Save the Bees! Bee Citizen Science Projects for School or Home:

<https://www.shareitscience.com/2019/03/save-bees-bee-citizen-science-projects-kids.html>

How to Draw a Realist Bee:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ho4aUHY6fss>