

How Does a Honeybee Make Honey?

Learning objective: To identify and understand the features of an explanation text.

Read the text below written by Bea the Honeybee. Use the information to answer the questions, paying close attention to the technical vocabulary and the sequence of events.

Have you ever wondered how honey is made? It is a fascinating process that takes a whole colony of bees working together. First, a worker bee flies to a flower to collect a sweet, sugary liquid called nectar. She stores this in her special honey stomach. Once she returns to the hive, she passes the nectar to other bees. These bees chew the nectar to break down the sugars. Next, the bees place the nectar into hexagonal wax cells. To make the honey thick, the bees flap their wings very fast. This creates a breeze that helps water evaporate from the nectar. Finally, once the honey is ready, the bees seal the cell with a lid of wax to keep it fresh. Now, the colony has plenty of food to eat during the cold winter months.

Word bank: nectar · enzyme · evaporation · colony · process · hive

1. According to the text, what is the very first step a worker bee takes in the honey-making process? (1 mark)

2. Explain in your own words why the bees flap their wings near the nectar. (2 marks)

3. Find and copy one technical word from the text that describes the removal of water. (1 mark)

4. Why do the bees seal the honey cell with a lid of wax at the end? (2 marks)

5. Look at the structure of the text. Why are words like 'First', 'Next', and 'Finally' used? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a labelled diagram showing the journey of the nectar from the flower to the honeycomb inside the hive.



Extension challenge: Research another process in nature, such as how a plant grows from a seed or how a butterfly changes, and write three sentences using chronological conjunctions like 'After that' or 'Subsequently'.