

A Report on the Remarkable Honeybee

Learning objective: To understand the structure and features of a non-chronological report.

Read the report below written by Bea the Honeybee. Use your best handwriting to answer the questions, ensuring you refer back to the text for evidence.

The Honeybee is a fascinating insect that plays a crucial role in our ecosystem. Known scientifically as *Apis mellifera*, these insects live in highly organised colonies. A typical colony consists of one queen, thousands of female worker bees, and a small number of male drones. The primary responsibility of the worker bee is to collect nectar from flowers, which is then transformed into honey. During this process, they perform the vital task of pollination, allowing plants to grow and reproduce. Honeybees have a distinct appearance with golden-brown stripes covering their abdomen and two pairs of wings. They communicate with their hive-mates by performing an intricate 'waggle dance', which directs others to the best sources of nectar. Sadly, honeybee populations are currently facing challenges due to habitat loss and changes in the environment. Protecting these tiny pollinators is essential for the health of our planet, as they contribute to the growth of the fruits and vegetables we eat every day. By planting wildflowers, we can provide a safe haven for these industrious creatures to thrive.

Word bank: colony · pollination · nectar · habitat · abdomen · species

1. According to the report, what are the three types of bees that make up a honeybee colony? (2 marks)

2. How do honeybees communicate the location of nectar to other bees in the hive? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author describe the bees as 'industrious'? (2 marks)

4. What might happen to our environment if honeybee populations were to disappear entirely? (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that planting wildflowers is the best way to help honeybees? Justify your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scientific diagram of a honeybee, labelling the abdomen, wings, and legs. Include a small drawing of a wildflower next to it.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the role of the worker bee with the role of the queen bee. Write a short paragraph explaining why a colony would fail if one of these roles were missing. Finally, suggest two other ways, besides planting flowers, that humans could protect honeybee habitats.