

How a Honeybee Makes Honey

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

Read the text carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the tricky words. Answer the questions below using full sentences.

Have you ever wondered how a honeybee makes honey? It is a clever process that starts in the garden. First, a busy bee like Bea flies to a bright flower. She uses her long tongue to drink the sweet nectar. She stores this nectar in a special honey stomach inside her body. Next, Bea flies back to the hive to meet her friends. She passes the nectar to another bee. The bees chew the nectar to break it down. Then, they place the liquid into the wax cells of the honeycomb. Finally, the bees flap their wings very fast to blow air over the nectar. This makes the water evaporate, which turns the liquid into thick, sticky honey. The colony now has delicious food to eat during the cold winter months. It is amazing how such a small insect can work so hard to create something so sweet. By working together, the bees ensure their home is full of energy. Science shows that bees are truly the world's most helpful little workers!

Word bank: Nectar: A sugary liquid found in flowers. · Colony: A large group of bees living together. · Process: The steps taken to do something. · Honeycomb: The wax structure where bees store food.

1. Where does a bee store the nectar before she flies back to the hive? (2 marks)

2. What do the bees do to the nectar to turn it into thick honey? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the bees need to store honey for the winter? (2 marks)

4. Why is it important for the bees to flap their wings over the honeycomb? (2 marks)

5. Do you think bees are important to our world? Explain why. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Bea the honeybee flying towards a colourful flower. Add labels to show the flower and the bee.



Extension challenge: Write one sentence explaining what might happen if the bees stopped working together.