

The Incredible Journey of a Honeybee

Learning objective: To understand the structure and linguistic features of an explanation text, including technical vocabulary and causal conjunctions.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you use evidence from the text to support your points.

Bea the honeybee is a vital worker in the natural world. Her primary task is pollination, a sophisticated process that allows plants to reproduce. Firstly, Bea visits a vibrant flower to gather nectar, a sugary liquid that serves as energy for her colony. As she lands on the petals, sticky pollen grains attach to the tiny, branched hairs on her body. Because she moves rapidly from flower to flower, she inadvertently transfers this pollen to the next plant. This movement is essential; without it, many fruits and vegetables would fail to develop. Once she has collected enough nectar, Bea returns to the hive. She performs a rhythmic 'waggle dance' to communicate the exact location of the nectar to her sisters. Consequently, the entire colony benefits from the shared information. This marvellous cycle ensures that our ecosystems remain healthy and diverse. By understanding this botanical interaction, we can better appreciate the complex, interconnected nature of our environment and the tireless work of pollinators like Bea.

Word bank: pollination · nectar · colony · causal · process · botanical

1. Identify two reasons why Bea visits different flowers during her day. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what is the specific purpose of the 'waggle dance'? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author describes pollination as a 'vital' process for humans. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the local environment if honeybees were no longer able to perform their pollination duties? Justify your prediction. (3 marks)

5. Do you think the author succeeds in making the reader appreciate honeybees? Justify your opinion using examples from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scientific diagram showing the path of a honeybee moving from one flower to another, including labels for 'pollen', 'nectar', and 'pollination'.



Extension challenge: Research a different pollinator, such as a butterfly or a hoverfly. Write a short paragraph explaining how their method of pollination differs from Bea's, using at least two causal conjunctions (e.g., therefore, consequently, as a result).