

A Report on the Remarkable Honeybee

Learning objective: To identify the features of a non-chronological report and retrieve information from a technical text.

Read the report carefully. Use your best handwriting to answer the questions in full sentences. For the Greater Depth section, provide detailed explanations to justify your thinking.

The Honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) is a vital insect within our ecosystem. Living in a highly organised colony, honeybees work together to ensure the survival of their queen. A typical hive consists of one queen, hundreds of male drones, and thousands of female worker bees. Worker bees are responsible for foraging, guarding the hive, and cleaning the combs. They possess a specialised 'pollen basket' on their hind legs, which allows them to transport pollen efficiently between flowers. This process, known as pollination, is essential for the growth of many fruits and vegetables that humans consume daily. Honeybees communicate through a sophisticated 'waggle dance', a series of movements that indicate the precise distance and direction of nectar sources. Despite their small size, their contribution to nature is monumental. However, they face significant threats from habitat loss and the use of pesticides. Protecting these industrious insects is necessary to maintain the biodiversity of our planet. By planting nectar-rich flowers in our gardens, we can provide a sanctuary for these busy creatures to flourish.

Word bank: colony · pollination · nectar · vital · ecosystem · foraging · abdomen · hive

1. Identify two specific tasks that worker bees perform to maintain the hive. (2 marks)

2. What is the primary function of the 'waggle dance' performed by honeybees? (2 marks)

3. Explain why the author describes honeybees as 'vital' to the human food supply. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the local environment if the population of honeybees were to decline significantly? Provide evidence from the text to support your prediction. (3 marks)

5. Do you agree that humans have a responsibility to protect honeybees? Justify your answer using information from the report. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a honeybee, clearly labelling the 'pollen basket' on its hind leg and the wings, as if you were illustrating a science textbook.



Extension challenge: Research and write an additional paragraph for this report titled 'How to Create a Bee-Friendly Garden'. Use formal, objective language and include at least three specific actions a person could take to help local bee populations. Compare and contrast the life cycle of a honeybee with a different garden insect of your choice.