

How a Honeybee Makes Honey

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

Read the text below written by Bea the Honeybee, then answer the questions to test your understanding of how honey is made.

Have you ever wondered how honey is made? It is a fascinating process that happens inside the beehive. First, worker bees fly to colourful flowers to collect a sugary liquid called nectar. They use their long, straw-like tongues to sip the nectar and store it in a special honey stomach. Next, the bees return to the hive and pass the nectar to other bees. They chew the nectar to break down the sugars. Then, the bees place the nectar into hexagonal wax cells. Finally, the bees flap their wings very fast to create a breeze. This causes the water in the nectar to disappear through a process called evaporation. Once the water is gone, it becomes thick, golden honey, which the colony eats during the chilly winter months.

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

1. According to the text, what do bees use to collect nectar from flowers? (1 mark)

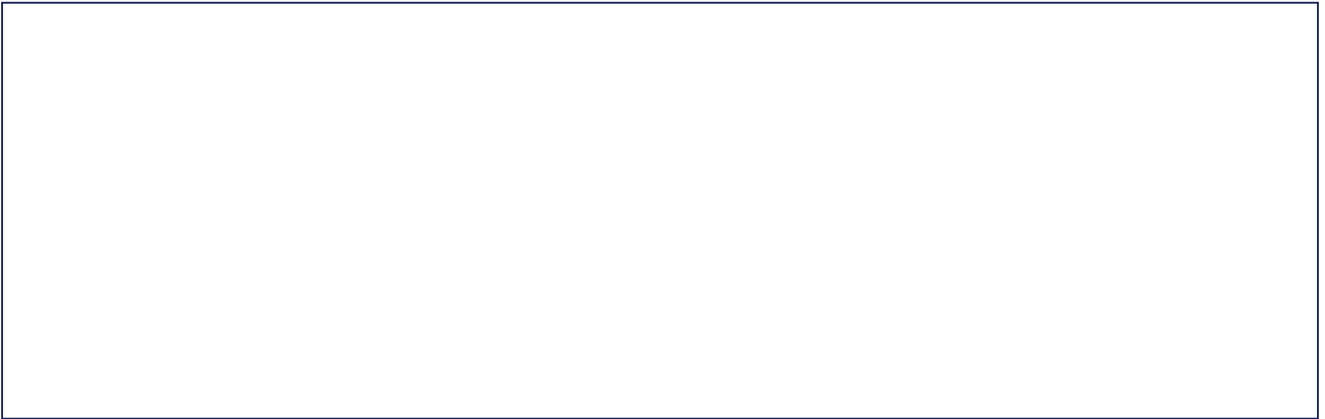
2. Why do the bees flap their wings near the wax cells? (2 marks)

3. Find and copy one word from the text that describes the shape of the wax cells. (1 mark)

4. Why is it important for the bees to store honey for the winter? (2 marks)

5. What is the very first step in the process of making honey? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a beehive. Add labels to your drawing using the words from the word bank to show where the bees are working.



Extension challenge: Write two sentences explaining why you think honey is important for the survival of the bee colony.