

How Does a Beehive Stay So Busy? An Explanation Text

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

Read the passage about Bea the honeybee's home below. Use your knowledge of explanation texts to answer the questions that follow.

A beehive is a marvel of nature's engineering, acting as a bustling city for thousands of honeybees. Firstly, the hive is constructed using hexagonal wax cells. This shape is chosen because it uses the least amount of wax while providing the maximum amount of storage space for nectar and honey.

Next, the process of honey production begins. Foraging bees fly to nearby flowers to collect nectar. This sugary liquid is then stored in a special honey stomach. Once the bee returns to the hive, the nectar is passed to house bees. Because the bees fan the nectar with their wings, the excess water evaporates, leaving behind thick, golden honey.

Finally, the hive must be kept at a constant temperature. If the hive becomes too hot, the bees vibrate their wing muscles to create a cooling breeze. Consequently, the temperature remains stable, ensuring the developing larvae stay safe and healthy.

Word bank: chronological · causal conjunctions · technical vocabulary · present tense · passive voice

1. Identify two causal conjunctions used in the text. Explain how they help the reader understand the process. (2 marks)

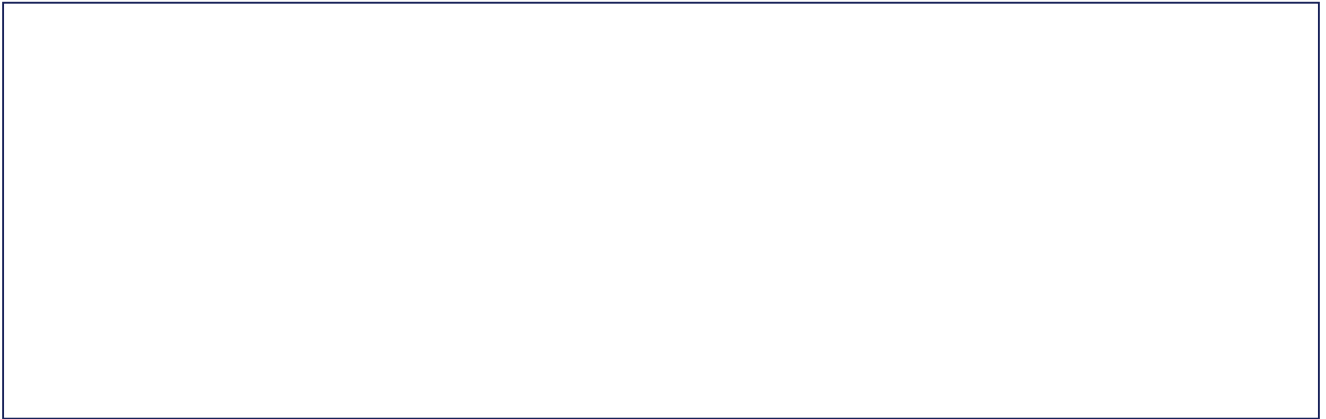
2. Why do bees choose a hexagonal shape for their wax cells? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)

3. The passage is written in the present tense. Why is this appropriate for an explanation text? (2 marks)

4. According to the text, what is the final step in the honey-making process before it is stored? (1 mark)

5. Explain why the bees might need to vibrate their wing muscles. Link your answer to the environment of the hive. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a beehive. Label the hexagonal cells and draw a small arrow showing where the nectar enters the hive.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are explaining how a different object works (such as a toaster or a bicycle). Write a short paragraph using at least two causal conjunctions to explain the process.