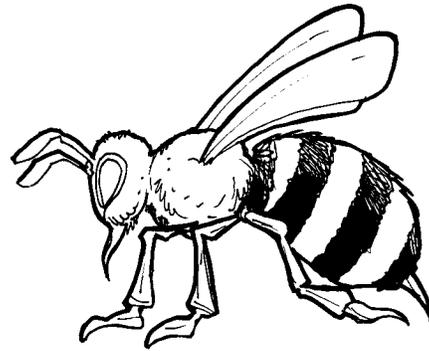


Lesson 12

Busy as a Bee



Many people don't like bees. Without bees we would not have honey to put on pancakes, toast, cereal, and other foods. Bees are a valuable insect because they provide us with honey and they help our plants to grow.

You will often see bees on flowers. Bees collect nectar from these flowers. Nectar is a sweet liquid. Bees also gather yellow grains called pollen. They use the nectar and pollen for food.

When bees travel from plant to plant, they have pollen on their bodies. Some of the pollen gets on the plants and fertilizes them. By fertilizing the plants, pollen helps the plants to grow.

There are thousands of different kinds of bees. Most kinds of bees live alone. Some live with many other bees. Honey bees live in large groups called colonies.

1. Why are bees valuable to us?
2. Name some things that taste good when you put honey on them.
3. Why do bees collect nectar and pollen?
4. How do bees help plants to grow?
5. Do bees live in groups or do they live alone?

Honey bees produce wax in their bodies. They use this wax to make their beehive. Every hive has a queen bee that lays all of the eggs.

Female bees called worker bees protect the hive. Bees sting when they are in danger. The stinger come off the bee when the bee stings, and this causes the bee to die.

Bees can fly forward, backward, or sideways. They can even remain in one place in the air.

Bees have five eyes. Two of the eyes are compound eyes. The compound eyes have thousands of lenses.

Could you imagine having so many eyes? What would you do with them?

6. How do bees make their beehive?
7. Which bees protect the hive?
8. When do bees sting?
9. What happens after a bee stings someone?
10. Describe how bees fly.
11. Describe the bee's eyes.

Words in Sentences

Instructions: Discuss the meaning of each word below as it is used in the article about bees. Ask the student to create a sentence for each word. Write the student's sentence in the space below each word.

1. valuable - useful; beneficial; having worth

2. nectar - a sweet nectar that bees collect from flowers

3. gather - to collect; to bring together

4. pollen - grains from flowers that bees carry from plant to plant

5. protect - to act in a way that prevents harm; defend

6. forward - to move ahead

7. danger - situation that causes harm

8. remain - to stay; to keep from moving

9. compound - more than one
