



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 2

Answer Key

How Bees Make Honey

Honeybees do not just buzz around flowers for fun. They are hard at work gathering nectar, a sweet liquid found deep inside flowers. A worker bee uses its long, straw-like tongue to sip nectar and store it in a special part of its body called a honey stomach. One bee visits hundreds of flowers before flying back home to the hive.

Back at the hive, the worker bee passes the nectar to another bee, mouth to mouth, again and again. Each time the nectar changes hands, special chemicals in the bees' bodies begin turning it into honey. This process is called trophallaxis. It sounds complicated, but it simply means the bees are sharing and changing the nectar together as a team.

Once the nectar has changed enough, the bees store it in six-sided wax rooms called honeycomb cells. Bees fan their wings over the cells to dry out extra water, which thickens the nectar into real honey. When the honey is ready, the bees seal the cell with a thin layer of wax to keep it safe and fresh.

A single beehive can produce many pounds of honey in one year, far more than the bees actually need. That extra honey is often what beekeepers collect to sell and share with people. The next time you see honey in a jar, remember: it took teamwork, time, and thousands of trips between flowers and hive to make it.

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What do worker bees collect from flowers?

Answer: b) Nectar

2. What is the process called when bees pass nectar mouth to mouth?

Answer: b) Trophallaxis

3. What shape are the wax cells where bees store honey?

Answer: c) Six-sided

4. Why do bees fan their wings over the honeycomb cells?

Answer: b) To dry out extra water and thicken the nectar into honey

True or False

5. A worker bee uses a straw-like tongue to sip nectar.

Answer: True

6. Bees seal finished honey cells with a thin layer of wax.

Answer: True

7. A beehive usually makes exactly the amount of honey the bees need, with none left over.

Answer: False

Fill in the Blank

8. Nectar is stored in a special part of a bee's body called the honey _____.

Answer: stomach

9. Beekeepers often collect the _____ honey to sell and share with people.

Answer: extra

Think and Explain

10. This passage explains honey-making as a series of steps, in order. List the steps in the correct sequence, from a bee visiting a flower to honey being sealed in a cell.

Sample answer: Accept reasonable answers in this general order: 1) A worker bee collects nectar from flowers using its tongue and stores it in its honey stomach. 2) The bee returns to the hive and passes the nectar mouth to mouth to other bees (trophallaxis), which begins changing it into honey. 3) The nectar is stored in six-sided wax honeycomb cells. 4) Bees fan their wings to dry out extra water. 5) The finished honey is sealed with a layer of wax.