Name: _____ Date: _____

Bees Fan Their Wings to Thicken Honey

Circle group

A bee visits many flowers. She sips a sweet juice called nectar. She keeps it in her honey stomach. Then she flies home to the hive.

At the hive, she gives the nectar to another bee. That bee passes it on too. Each bee helps change the nectar into honey.

The bees put the runny nectar into little wax cells. Then many bees fan their wings. The moving air dries out the extra water. The nectar gets thick.

Last, the bees cover each cell with wax. The honey is safe inside. It is food for the bees in winter, when no flowers are out.

Questions

1. What is nectar?

_____

_____

2. Where does the bee keep nectar on her way home?

_____

_____

3. Where do the bees put the nectar?

_____

_____

4. Why do the bees fan their wings?

_____

_____

5. What do the bees put on each cell when the honey is ready?

_____

_____

6. Why do the bees save honey?

_____

_____

Words to know

nectar: the sweet juice inside a flower
hive: the home where a group of bees lives
cells: the tiny wax rooms in a hive

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Bees Fan Their Wings to Thicken Honey

Triangle group

A honey bee visits flower after flower, drinking a sweet juice called nectar. She keeps it in a second stomach that is just for nectar. When she is full, she flies home to the hive.

Back at the hive, she hands the nectar to another bee. That bee works on it and hands it to the next. Each bee adds something that helps turn the nectar into honey.

Then the thin, runny nectar is spread into little wax cells. Here is the clever part. Many bees stand near the cells and fan their wings. The breeze they make carries off the extra water. The nectar gets thick and sticky.

When it is ready, the bees cover each cell with a lid of wax. The honey is safe inside. It will be food for the bees when winter comes and no flowers are blooming.

Questions

1. What is nectar?

_____

_____

2. Where does a bee store nectar while she flies home?

_____

_____

3. What do the bees put the nectar into at the hive?

_____

_____

4. Why do the bees fan their wings?

_____

_____

5. What do the bees do when the honey is ready?

_____

_____

6. Why is it important for the bees to save honey?

_____

_____

Words to know

nectar: the sweet juice inside a flower
hive: the home where a group of bees lives
cells: the tiny wax rooms in a hive
blooming: having flowers open

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Bees Fan Their Wings to Thicken Honey

Square group

A honey bee travels from one flower to the next, sipping a sweet liquid called nectar. She stores the nectar in a special honey stomach, and when it is full, she carries it back to the hive.

Inside the hive, she hands the nectar to another worker, which chews on it for a while and passes it along again. Every bee in the chain adds something that helps change the nectar into honey.

Next, the bees spread the thin, runny nectar into tiny wax cells. Here is the clever part. Crowds of bees stand beside the cells and fan their wings, and the moving air dries out the extra water until the nectar turns thick and sticky.

When the honey is ready, the bees seal every cell with a lid of wax. The honey stays safe inside, waiting to feed the colony through winter, when no flowers are blooming.

Questions

1. What is the sweet liquid that a honey bee sips from flowers?

_____

_____

2. Where does a bee store nectar on her trip home?

_____

_____

3. Where do the bees spread the runny nectar at the hive?

_____

_____

4. What does the moving air from the fanning wings do to the nectar?

_____

_____

5. How do the bees seal the honey once it is ready?

_____

_____

6. Why is it so important for the colony to keep honey stored away?

_____

_____

Words to know

nectar: the sweet juice inside a flower
hive: the home where a group of bees lives
cells: the tiny wax rooms in a hive
blooming: having flowers open

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Bees Fan Their Wings to Thicken Honey

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Bees Fan Their Wings to Thicken Honey

Easier · 104 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. A sweet juice from flowers.
2. In her honey stomach.
3. In little wax cells.
4. The moving air dries out extra water.
5. A lid of wax.
6. It is food for winter, when no flowers are out.

Triangle: Bees Fan Their Wings to Thicken Honey

This passage · 143 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.2

1. A sweet juice that bees sip from flowers.
2. In her honey stomach.
3. Little wax cells.
4. The breeze they make carries off the extra water.
5. They cover each cell with a lid of wax.
6. They need it for food in winter, when no flowers are blooming.

Square: Bees Fan Their Wings to Thicken Honey

Harder · 149 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.8

1. Nectar.
2. In a special honey stomach.
3. Into tiny wax cells.
4. It dries out the extra water, so the nectar turns thick and sticky.
5. They put a lid of wax over every cell.
6. It feeds the bees in winter, when no flowers are blooming.