Name: _____ Date: _____

# Almond Orchards Rent Traveling Beehives

Circle group

An almond orchard wakes up in late winter. It wakes before most other trees. Every branch is soon covered with white and pink blossoms. For a few weeks the orchard looks like a snowy field. But it has a big job to do. Each blossom must be pollinated before it can grow into an almond.

Pollination happens when pollen moves from one flower to another. Pollen is a fine yellow dust made by flowers. Almond trees of one kind usually need pollen from a tree of a different kind. The wind cannot do the whole job. So farmers need bees. A bee visits a blossom to drink nectar. It gets dusted with pollen. When it flies to the next tree, some pollen rubs off.

There is a problem. A big orchard needs far more bees than the farm can keep all year. The answer is a rented hive. Beekeepers load hives onto trucks. They drive them to the orchard just as the trees begin to bloom. The farmer pays the beekeeper for the bees' work.

When the blossoms fade, the beekeeper takes the hives away. Some beekeepers then go to other farms that need pollinators, such as apple or blueberry farms. So one hive of bees may help grow food in several places in one year.

## Questions

**1. When do almond trees bloom?**

_____

_____

**2. What is pollen?**

_____

_____

**3. Why do bees visit the blossoms?**

_____

_____

**4. How do beekeepers bring hives to the orchard?**

_____

_____

**5. Why does an almond farmer rent hives?**

_____

_____

**6. How can one hive help grow food in several places?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

blossoms: flowers on a tree that may grow into fruit or nuts
pollinated: given pollen so that a flower can make seeds or fruit
nectar: the sweet liquid inside flowers
orchard: a field of fruit or nut trees
pollinators: animals such as bees that carry pollen from flower to flower

## 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: _____

# Almond Orchards Rent Traveling Beehives

Triangle group

An almond orchard wakes up in late winter, before most other trees. Suddenly every branch is covered with white and pink blossoms. For a few weeks the orchard looks like a snowy field, but it is also facing a big job. Each blossom must be pollinated before it can grow into an almond.

Pollination happens when pollen, a fine yellow dust made by flowers, moves from one flower to another. Almond trees of one kind usually need pollen from a tree of a different kind. The wind cannot do the whole job, so the farmers depend on bees. A bee visits a blossom to drink nectar and gets dusted with pollen. When it flies on to the next tree, some of the pollen rubs off.

There is a problem, though. A big orchard needs far more bees than the farm could keep for the rest of the year. The solution is a rented hive. Beekeepers load their hives onto trucks and drive them to the orchard just as the trees begin to bloom. The farmer pays the beekeeper for the work the bees do.

Once the blossoms fade, the beekeeper picks up the hives and takes them away. Some beekeepers then drive on to other farms that need pollinators, such as those growing apples or blueberries. This way, a single hive of bees may help grow food in several places in one year.

## Questions

**1. When do almond trees bloom?**

_____

_____

**2. What is pollen?**

_____

_____

**3. Why do bees visit the blossoms?**

_____

_____

**4. How do beekeepers get hives to the orchard?**

_____

_____

**5. Why does an almond farmer rent hives instead of keeping enough bees all year?**

_____

_____

**6. How can one hive help grow food in several places?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

blossoms: flowers on a tree that may grow into fruit or nuts
pollinated: given pollen so that a flower can make seeds or fruit
nectar: the sweet liquid inside flowers
orchard: a field of fruit or nut trees
pollinators: animals such as bees that carry pollen from flower to flower

## 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: _____

# Almond Orchards Rent Traveling Beehives

Square group

An almond orchard awakens in late winter, well before most other trees. Almost overnight, every branch is blanketed with white and pink blossoms. For a few weeks the orchard resembles a snowy field, but it also faces an enormous task. Each blossom must be pollinated before it can develop into an almond.

Pollination occurs when pollen, a fine yellow dust produced by flowers, travels from one flower to another. Almond trees of one variety generally require pollen from a tree of a different variety. The wind cannot accomplish the entire job, so farmers depend on bees. A bee visits a blossom to drink nectar and becomes dusted with pollen in the process. When it flies on to the next tree, some of that pollen rubs off.

A difficulty arises, however. A large orchard requires far more bees than the farm could possibly maintain throughout the rest of the year. The solution is the rented hive. Beekeepers load their hives onto trucks and drive them to the orchard just as the trees begin to bloom, and the farmer pays the beekeeper for the labor the bees perform.

Once the blossoms fade, the beekeeper collects the hives and carries them away. Some beekeepers then travel to other farms that need pollinators, such as those growing apples or blueberries. In this way, a single hive of bees may contribute to growing food in several different places within one year.

## Questions

**1. When do almond trees begin to bloom?**

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**2. What is pollen?**

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_____

**3. Why do bees visit the blossoms in the first place?**

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_____

**4. How do beekeepers transport hives to the orchard?**

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_____

**5. Why does an almond farmer rent hives rather than keep enough bees all year?**

_____

_____

**6. How might a single hive contribute to growing food in several places?**

_____

_____

## Words to know

blossoms: flowers on a tree that may grow into fruit or nuts
pollinated: given pollen so that a flower can make seeds or fruit
nectar: the sweet liquid inside flowers
orchard: a field of fruit or nut trees
pollinators: animals such as bees that carry pollen from flower to flower

## 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: Almond Orchards Rent Traveling Beehives

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

### Circle: Almond Orchards Rent Traveling Beehives

Easier · 216 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. In late winter, before most other trees.
2. A fine yellow dust made by flowers.
3. To drink nectar.
4. They load them onto trucks and drive them there.
5. A big orchard needs far more bees than the farm can keep all year.
6. After almonds, it can move to other farms that need pollinators.

### Triangle: Almond Orchards Rent Traveling Beehives

This passage · 233 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.6

1. In late winter, before most other trees.
2. A fine yellow dust made by flowers.
3. To drink nectar.
4. They load the hives onto trucks and drive them there.
5. A big orchard needs far more bees than the farm could keep through the year.
6. After the almond bloom, the beekeeper can move it to other farms that need pollinators.

### Square: Almond Orchards Rent Traveling Beehives

Harder · 236 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 8.2

1. In late winter, well before most other trees.
2. A fine yellow dust produced by flowers.
3. To drink nectar.
4. They load the hives onto trucks and drive them there.
5. A large orchard requires far more bees than the farm could maintain throughout the year.
6. After the almond bloom, the beekeeper can move it to other farms that need pollinators.