Name: _____ Date: _____

Honey Keeps for Ages, but Not for Babies

Circle group

A jar of honey can sit in the cupboard for a long time. It is still good to eat. Most foods spoil when germs and mold grow in them. Honey is different. Its secret is in how it is made.

Honey is mostly sugar. It has very little water. Germs need water to grow. In honey, the sugar holds on to almost all of the water. Not much is left for germs. Honey is also a little acidic. That makes it a hard place for germs to live. Bees also add an enzyme as they turn nectar into honey. It helps make honey safe to keep. In a sealed jar, honey stays good for a very long time.

There is one big rule. Never give honey to a baby younger than one year old. Honey can hold tiny spores from a kind of bacteria. Older children and adults are fine. The spores pass through. A baby's gut is still growing. It is not ready for them. They could grow and make the baby very sick.

Honey is great on toast or in tea, if everyone eating it is old enough. If you have a baby brother or sister, keep the honey out of reach.

Questions

1. Why does honey hardly ever spoil?

_____

_____

2. What do bees add to nectar as they make honey?

_____

_____

3. How does being a little acidic help honey stay good?

_____

_____

4. Who should never be given honey?

_____

_____

5. Why are older children and adults safe from the spores in honey?

_____

_____

6. Why should honey be kept out of a baby's reach?

_____

_____

Words to know

spoil: to go bad so that it is not safe to eat
nectar: the sweet liquid inside flowers
acidic: having a sour, sharp quality
spores: tiny seeds that grow into bacteria or molds
sealed: closed up tightly so nothing gets in

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: _____

Honey Keeps for Ages, but Not for Babies

Triangle group

A jar of honey can sit in the cupboard for a very long time and still be good to eat. Most foods spoil when germs and molds grow in them. Honey is different, and its secret is in how it is made.

Honey is mostly sugar and very little water. Germs need water to grow, and in honey the sugar holds on to nearly all of the water, leaving almost none for them. Honey is also a little acidic, which makes it an even harder place for germs to live. And bees add a special ingredient, an enzyme, while they turn nectar into honey. It helps make honey safe to keep. Sealed in a jar, honey stays good for a very long time.

There is one important rule, though. Honey should never be given to a baby younger than one year old. Honey can hold tiny spores from a kind of bacteria. For older children and adults, the spores pass through without any trouble. A baby's gut is still growing, and it is not ready to deal with them. They could grow and make the baby very sick.

So honey is a wonderful food for a toast or a cup of tea, as long as everyone eating it is old enough. If you have a baby brother or sister, remember to keep the honey out of their reach.

Questions

1. Why does honey hardly ever spoil?

_____

_____

2. What do bees add to nectar while they make honey?

_____

_____

3. How does being a little acidic help honey stay good?

_____

_____

4. Who should never be given honey?

_____

_____

5. Why are older children and adults safe from the spores in honey?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer say to keep honey out of a baby's reach?

_____

_____

Words to know

spoil: to go bad so that it is not safe to eat
nectar: the sweet liquid inside flowers
acidic: having a sour, sharp quality
spores: tiny seeds that grow into bacteria or molds
sealed: closed up tightly so nothing gets in

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: _____

Honey Keeps for Ages, but Not for Babies

Square group

A jar of honey can sit undisturbed in the cupboard for a remarkably long time and still be perfectly good to eat. Most foods spoil when germs and molds begin to grow in them. Honey, however, is different, and its secret lies in the way it is made.

Honey consists mostly of sugar and very little water. Germs require water in order to grow, and in honey the sugar clings to nearly all of the water, leaving almost none available for them. Honey is also slightly acidic, which makes it an even harder place for germs to survive. In addition, bees contribute a special ingredient, an enzyme, as they transform nectar into honey, and it helps make honey safe to store. When it is sealed inside a jar, honey stays good for a very long time.

There is, however, one important rule. Honey should never be given to a baby who is younger than one year old. Honey can contain tiny spores from a particular kind of bacteria. For older children and adults, the spores simply pass through without causing any trouble. A baby's gut is still developing, and it is not yet prepared to cope with them. They could grow and make the baby seriously sick.

Honey is therefore a wonderful food for spreading on toast or stirring into a cup of tea, provided that everyone eating it is old enough. If you have a baby brother or sister, remember to keep the honey well out of their reach.

Questions

1. Why does honey hardly ever spoil?

_____

_____

2. What do bees contribute while they transform nectar into honey?

_____

_____

3. How does being slightly acidic help honey stay good?

_____

_____

4. Who should never be given honey?

_____

_____

5. Why are older children and adults safe from the spores in honey?

_____

_____

6. Why does the writer advise keeping honey well out of a baby's reach?

_____

_____

Words to know

spoil: to go bad so that it is not safe to eat
nectar: the sweet liquid inside flowers
acidic: having a sour, sharp quality
spores: tiny seeds that grow into bacteria or molds
sealed: closed up tightly so nothing gets in

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: Honey Keeps for Ages, but Not for Babies

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

Circle: Honey Keeps for Ages, but Not for Babies

Easier · 204 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. It has very little water, and germs need water to grow.
2. An enzyme.
3. It makes honey a hard place for germs to live.
4. A baby younger than one year old.
5. Their bodies are ready for the spores, so they pass through.
6. A baby could get very sick, so the honey must not be eaten by mistake.

Triangle: Honey Keeps for Ages, but Not for Babies

This passage · 228 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.3

1. It has very little water, and germs need water to grow.
2. An enzyme.
3. It makes honey a harder place for germs to live.
4. A baby younger than one year old.
5. Their bodies are ready to handle the spores, so they pass through.
6. A baby could be made very sick, so the honey must not be eaten by mistake.

Square: Honey Keeps for Ages, but Not for Babies

Harder · 250 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.7

1. It contains very little water, and germs require water in order to grow.
2. An enzyme.
3. It makes honey an even harder place for germs to survive.
4. A baby who is younger than one year old.
5. Their bodies are prepared to cope with the spores, which simply pass through.
6. A baby could become seriously sick, so the honey must not be eaten by mistake.