

71 - Bees

Did you know there are three different kinds of honey bees? But *how* do bees help our food grow? How and why do they make honey? And why do honey bees love to...DANCE?

There are 3 types of honey bees. First, there's the Queen Bee. She's the boss lady. There's only one of her and she's in charge. She's also really important because she gives birth to all the baby bees. Then there's the Drone Bees. The guys. They're cool looking, but they're only good for one thing -- mating with the Queen so she can make more baby bees. And then, there's the Worker Bees. The ladies!

Every day, the worker bees leave the colony and fly around looking for flowers. And we're not just talking locally. Somedays they might fly up to 5 miles away to find good flowers!

After bees collect nectar and pollen from flowers, they return to their house —known as a hive -- and they do something that's actually pretty gross. They regurgitate all the nectar stored in their bellies and pass it from bee to bee, mouth to mouth. And by regurgitate... we mean vomit. After passing through all the bees, the nectar goes through a magical transformation -- turning into sweet, gooey, golden honey!

What You Will Learn

1. What are the roles of the Queen, Drone and Worker Bees
2. How and why do bees make honey?
3. Why do bees dance when they return to the hive after finding flowers?

Activities

1. Dance like a bee! Ask an adult to play some of your favorite dance music and show off your moves!
2. Make some bee art! Have an adult help you paint your hand like a bee and then decorate it. You can find the instructions [here](#).
3. Want to learn more about bees? Check out this PBS [video](#).

Additional Resources

Bees need organic, local spaces to pollinate. Pesticides and other chemicals hurt bees. You can plant bee friendly flowers around your house and make sure you check any garden chemicals to make sure they are safe for bees. If you don't have a yard, plant some on your balcony or talk to your teacher about creating a pollinator friendly space at school. You can find out more at the USDA's [website](#).

Kid News

The oldest known wild bird surprised scientists by hatching an egg. Wisdom is the name of an albatross that is more than 70 years old. Scientists thought an albatross could only live about 30 years -- but Wisdom is more than double that and continues to teach scientists more about her species. Because of her advanced age, it is believed Wisdom has flown millions of miles over the course of her life. Read more about Wisdom and her unique life [here](#).¹

¹ This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast www.WhoSmarted.com