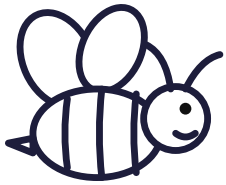
Non-fiction

Level 3 · Year 2 · Grade 2

Busy Honeybees







A honeybee is a small insect with six legs, four wings and a striped body. Honeybees live together in a big group called a colony. Their home is called a hive. In summer, a busy hive can hold more than 20,000 bees.

Who lives in a hive?

Every hive has one queen bee. Her job is to lay eggs. Most of the other bees are worker bees, and they are all female. Workers clean the hive, look after the young bees, guard the door and fly out to find food. The male bees are called drones.

Making honey

Worker bees visit flowers to drink a sweet juice called nectar. Back at the hive, they turn the nectar into honey. They store the honey in tiny six-sided boxes made of wax, called cells.

Dancing directions

When a worker finds lots of flowers, she flies back to the hive and does a special dance called the waggle dance. The dance tells the other bees which way to fly to find the flowers.

Helping plants

As bees move from flower to flower, they carry a yellow dust called pollen. This helps the plants to make seeds and fruit. Without bees and other insects, many plants would make much less fruit.

Questions: Busy Honeybees

Name _____ Date _____

1 **What is the queen bee's job? Tick one.** Find it 1b

☐ to guard the door ☐ to lay eggs ☐ to make wax

2 **Find and copy the word that means a big group of bees living together.** Word meaning 1a

_____

3 **Tick true or false.** Find it 1b

	True	False
Worker bees are all female.	☐	☐
A hive has lots of queen bees.	☐	☐
Worker bees store honey in cells made of wax.	☐	☐

4 **Number the sentences 1 to 3 to show how honey is made.** In order 1c

☐ Back at the hive, they turn the nectar into honey.

☐ They store the honey in wax cells.

☐ Worker bees drink nectar from flowers.

5 **How does a worker bee tell the other bees where to find flowers?** Find it 1b

_____

_____

6 **Which heading tells you about pollen?** Find it 1b

_____

_____

7 **Why might a farmer who grows apples be pleased to see lots of bees?** Think it 1d

_____

_____

_____

Answers: Busy Honeybees

Accept answers in the child's own words that show the same understanding.

1 **What is the queen bee's job? Tick one.** Find it 1b

☐ to guard the door ☑ to lay eggs ☐ to make wax

In the text: "Her job is to lay eggs."

2 **Find and copy the word that means a big group of bees living together.** Word meaning 1a

colony

In the text: "Honeybees live together in a big group called a colony."

3 **Tick true or false.** Find it 1b

	True	False
Worker bees are all female.	☑	☐
A hive has lots of queen bees.	☐	☑
Worker bees store honey in cells made of wax.	☑	☐

In the text: "Most of the other bees are worker bees, and they are all female." / "Every hive has one queen bee." / "Worker bees visit flowers to drink a sweet juice called nectar. Back at the hive, they turn the nectar into honey. They store the honey in tiny six-sided boxes made of wax, called cells."

4 **Number the sentences 1 to 3 to show how honey is made.** In order 1c

2 Back at the hive, they turn the nectar into honey.

3 They store the honey in wax cells.

1 Worker bees drink nectar from flowers.

In the text: "Worker bees visit flowers to drink a sweet juice called nectar.", then "Back at the hive, they turn the nectar into honey.", then "They store the honey in tiny six-sided boxes made of wax"

5 **How does a worker bee tell the other bees where to find flowers?** Find it 1b

She does the waggle dance.

In the text: "does a special dance called the waggle dance" ... "The dance tells the other bees which way to fly to find the flowers."

6 **Which heading tells you about pollen?** Find it 1b

Helping plants

In the text: "Helping plants"

7 **Why might a farmer who grows apples be pleased to see lots of bees?** Think it 1d

Possible answer: Bees carry pollen from flower to flower, and that helps the apple trees make fruit.

In the text: "they carry a yellow dust called pollen" ... "This helps the plants to make seeds and fruit."

Facts checked against: Encyclopaedia Britannica: honeybee; British Beekeepers Association; Encyclopaedia Britannica: pollination.