

# Animals of the World: Insects



## THE BEE



Bees are flying insects that produce honey and pollinate large numbers of flowers. They live in colonies inside beehives. They are organized hierarchically; there is one queen bee, several drone bees, and a multitude of worker bees.

The queen bee is the only bee in the hive that lays the larval eggs of bees. All drones are male, and their only job is to mate with the queen.

The worker bees are responsible for the rest of the tasks: cleaning the hive, collecting pollen and nectar, feeding and caring for the larvae, and defending the hive.

Bees are found all over the world, except very cold places like the North or South Pole. More than 20,000 subspecies of bees are known to exist. They are very old insects, having been in existence for 30 million years.

Bees are important for the environment because they are pollinating insects; bees help plants continue to reproduce and continue to exist over the years.

The pollination by bees consists of taking pollen from one flower to another so that they can keep multiplying in meadows and forests. Pollination by bees is important because 75 percent of crops depend on this kind of pollination to continue existing. Bees are not alone in this task, beetles, moths, bats, hummingbirds, and butterflies are also involved.

Not all bees produce honey, only 7 of the more than 20,000 bee subspecies do. This kind of bee is known as a honeybee. Honey is produced by transforming the nectar of flowers. This transformation occurs inside the beehive with the help of worker bees.

The worker bees are the ones that sting attacking any potential threat with its stinger that is filled with poison. It stings for self-defense or to defend the hive. For humans, the stings of bees are painful and can be lethal if allergic to the poison. The stinger is attached to its digestive tract. When the stinger gets buried in a person's skin, the bee tries to remove it, pulling off part of its digestive tract, and it dies.

Bees feed on the nectar and pollen of flowers because they are an excellent source of energy and nutrients. Most of the pollen they collect is used to feed their larvae. In many places, daisies are their main food source because they bloom throughout the year. A single bee can visit almost 7,000 flowers a day to look for food and produce honey.



Bees fly very fast making the distinctive buzzing sound. Their wings flutter 11,400 times per minute. Bees travel extremely long distances, up to six kilometers and can reach speeds of 24 km per hour.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# THE BEE

Answer the questions.



1. Fill in the blanks with the words below.

ENVIRONMENT - INSECTS - BEES - HIVES - HONEY

Flowers are pollinated by different animals, including \_\_\_\_\_. The text is about ..... living in ..... They are very famous because they are known for producing ....., but the really important thing is that they help the ..... so that the reproduction of the plants continues, and the forests are not extinguished.

2. Why do you think bees are organized hierarchically?

- a. Depending on the number of queen bees, there is a different distribution of worker bees.
- b. The work is distributed, and every bee knows what to do.
- c. Worker bees become queen depending on the merits they get.
- d. They are small reptiles that make honey and pollinate a lot of flowers.

3. All species of bees produce honey.

- a. True
- b. False

4. According to the text, bees are really important for the environment because \_\_\_\_\_

- a. they live in hives.
- b. they defend their hives.
- c. they produce honey.
- d. they pollinate plants.

5. Match the functions of bees with their classification.

- |               |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Worker Bee | 1. Mating                           |
| b. Queen bee  | 2. Cleaning, gathering, and defense |
| c. Drone      | 3. Laying eggs                      |



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

6. Bee stings \_\_\_\_\_

- a. occur when bees need to defend themselves against their enemy.
- b. are painful for humans and can kill the person if they have an allergy.
- c. are dangerous because the stinger contains poison, a toxic substance.
- d. All the answers are correct.

7. What do bees feed on?

- a. water from fountains and rivers.
- b. any plant they find in the forest.
- c. nectar and pollen of flowers.
- d. other insects.



8. Bees make a buzzing noise because \_\_\_\_\_

- a. they can flutter 14,000 times per minute.
- b. they can fly two kilometers at a speed of up to 24 kilometers per hour.
- c. they can walk six kilometers at a speed of up to 24 kilometers per hour.
- d. they can fly six kilometers at a speed of up to 24 kilometers per hour.

9. Think about the number of flowers a bee can visit throughout the day. Is the work to produce honey an easy or difficult process? Write your answer.

I think YES / NO because \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Bees are very old insects because they have existed for hundreds of years.

- a. True
- b. False