



What is a Bee?

Essential Question



- What does a bee look like?
- What are the parts of a bee?
- Where do bees live?
- What do bees do?

Go on a Bee Hunt

Go outside and look for bees! Observing bees is the best way to learn about them. Teach your child to be kind to bees while keeping their distance. Ask your child, "What do you see?" and "Why do you think ..."



Image Source:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c6/Honey_bee_on_rock_rose.jpg

Bee Body Part Song

"Head, Thorax, Abdomen"
 (Tune: Head Shoulders Knees and Toes)

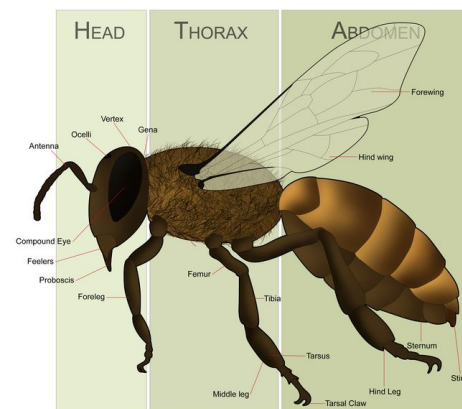


Image Source:
<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/ac/HoneyBeeAnatomy.png>

Make a Bee

Using one of the ideas linked below, make a simple bee toy or finger puppet. Then take your bee puppet outside to look for flowers.


<https://iheartcraftythings.com/bee-finger-puppets-craft.html>

<https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/bee-paper-hand-puppet-template>



Honey Bees Make Honey

Did your child see bees visiting flowers? Did they wonder what the bees were doing at the flowers? The following activities will explore how honey bees gather nectar and turn it into honey.

Be a Honey Bee	Gather Nectar	Bring the Nectar to the Hive	Bees make Nectar into Honey	Examples
<p>Help your child to dress like a bee:</p> <p>Wearing yellow and black clothes</p> <p>Wearing a striped shirt</p> <p>Making wings</p> <p>Making headband antennas</p> <p>Wearing a fuzzy sweater</p>	<p>Make pretend flowers using construction paper</p> <p>In the middle of each flower place a cup of sugar water (or just water for less mess)</p> <p>Give your "honey bee" child a turkey baster (or a spoon) to suck up the nectar</p>	<p>Have your "honey bee" child fly to the hive and drop off the nectar in plastic egg cartons or ice cube trays</p> <p>This will take several trips</p>	<p>Have your "honey bee" child flap their wings or arms to cool the nectar which is part of the process on turning nectar into honey</p>	 <p>Other ideas: http://www.creativetots.com/blog/bees-pollination-and-honey/</p>



Explore Honey

Honey is sticky, sweet and slow-pouring, which makes it the perfect substance to explore using the five senses. To prevent a sticky mess or accidental spills, you may want to set out a tablecloth or anything else that could be used for easy cleanup.

Smell	Listen	Look	Touch	Taste
<p>Before you begin to pour, start by having your child SMELL the honey by taking a deep inhalation from the open container.</p> <p>Does it have a smell?</p> <p>Does it smell like flowers, candy, syrup, or something else?</p>	<p>Begin to pour the honey. While pouring, have your child close their eyes and LISTEN to the sound it makes as it oozes out of the container.</p> <p>Can you hear it?</p> <p>Does it make a sound when it's being poured?</p>	<p>Then, have your child open their eyes and LOOK at how slowly the honey pours onto the surface.</p> <p>What color is the honey?</p> <p>Can you see through it?</p> <p>Is it moving fast or slow?</p>	<p>Next, dab a bit of honey onto your child's index finger.. Have your child press the honey between their index and thumb fingers using TOUCH to explore the stickiness of the honey.</p> <p>What does the honey feel like?</p> <p>Is it smooth, sticky, or gummy?</p>	<p>Lastly, have your child take a TASTE of the honey - maybe let them lick the honey from the fingers and then give them a spoonful to try.</p> <p>How does the honey feel on your tongue?</p> <p>Can you describe the taste?</p> <p>Does it remind you of something you've tasted before?</p> <p>What kinds of foods would you put honey on?</p>



Bees are Pollinator

Observe and/or Dissect a Flower

There are many different parts of a plant/flower that are important for pollination. Pick a flower and dissect it with your child to identify the different parts or you can just observe it, especially if your child has allergies.

Start by helping your child to identify the basic parts of a flower like the roots, stem, leaves, buds and flowers.

Then, talk with your child about pollination and identify the parts of the flower that are used to support this process. Pollen is usually a yellow or dark-orange color and it looks like tiny, dusty balls that sit on flowers. The anther is the part of the flower that holds the pollen which bees carry to other flowers. The pistil is the part of the flower that contains the sugary, sweet nectar that our pollinator friends like to drink. When bees dust off the pollen, it falls onto the stigma which is a sticky knob at the top of a tube-like structure called the style that holds the pollen.



Image Source:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0e/Honeybee_pollen_1165.jpg

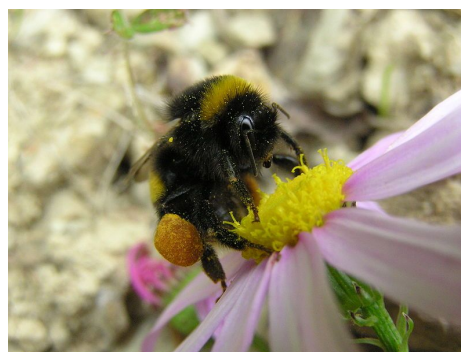


Image Source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bee#/media/File:Bumblebee_05.JPG

Pollination Demonstration & Walk

This activity helps demonstrate how bees pick up pollen from flowers and spread it around. Pollen collects on bees fuzzy bodies but they also gather pollen and eat it.

Create some simple flowers in any shape out of any material. In the middle place a construction paper circle. Rub chalk or something else that creates dust on the center.

Make a simple "bee wand" by tying some flannel or felt around a stick. Rub the bee wand on the chalk-y flower center and observe the "pollen" that has rubbed off. Move the bee wand from flower to flower to "pollinate" them.

Pollination Walk - Create a bee puppet with your child and go on a scavenger hunt for flowers to pollinate. This could be outside or inside (look for fake flowers, flower prints or flowers in books.)



Additional Bee Activities & Resources

Be a Beekeeper



You can build on this by creating some dramatic play options around beekeeping. This post shows how a [family created their beekeeper dramatic play](#) using very simple materials.

[BeeKeeper Video for Kids](#)

Bubble Wrap Honeycomb Painting

Create a honeycomb print by painting a piece of bubble wrap with warm colors. When your child is done painting lay a piece of paper on top. Rub the back of the paper and then lift up to take a print.



Bee Breath

The bee breath is a pranayama (breathwork) technique known as *brahmari*-- a Sanskrit word that means "bee."

Take a slow, deep breath in through your nose and exhale out with a "Hummmmmmm" or 'M' sound, for as long as possible.

Try it again, but this time with your eyes closed. Encourage your child to focus on the humming sound and notice the vibrating sensation on their lips. Try it another time, but this time with your eyes closed and your ears blocked with your hands.

Videos

[Honey Bees at the National Zoo](#)

[Bee Dance Waggle](#)

Songs & Music

[Bees & Wasps Songs](#)

[The Flight of the Bumblebee](#)

[Create a Honeycomb using Cardboard Tubes](#)



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