

Name _____ Date _____

PRACTICE

The Honeybee

The honeybee is one of nature's most remarkable insects. Not only do honeybees produce honey, but they also play a critical role in pollinating plants. Pollination is essential for the reproduction of many crops, including fruits and vegetables. Without bees, agricultural production would decrease significantly, which could lead to food shortages and economic consequences.

A honeybee colony is a highly organized society, usually consisting of one queen, thousands of workers, and, during the breeding season, several hundred drones. The queen is responsible for laying eggs, while the workers perform various tasks such as gathering nectar, cleaning the hive, and feeding the young. Drones have the sole purpose of mating with the queen.

One fascinating aspect of honeybee behavior is the "waggle dance." When a worker bee finds a good source of nectar, it returns to the hive and performs a series of movements to communicate the direction and distance of the flowers. This behavior demonstrates the complexity of honeybee communication and their remarkable ability to work cooperatively.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Honeybees are becoming endangered due to climate change
- B. Honeybee colonies are ruled by worker bees
- C. Honeybees are important for both honey production and pollination

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D. Honey production is the only benefit of honeybees

2. What does the word "critical" in line 3 most likely mean?

- A. Dangerous
- B. Necessary
- C. Unusual
- D. Confusing

3. According to the passage, what is the function of drones in a honeybee colony?

- A. They collect nectar from flowers
- B. They protect the hive from predators
- C. They communicate with other bees
- D. They mate with the queen

4. The waggle dance is a method used by honeybees to:

- A. Celebrate finding nectar
- B. Warn other bees of danger
- C. Indicate where food is located
- D. Invite other bees to rest

5. What can be inferred from the passage about worker bees?

- A. They are less important than the queen
- B. They perform a variety of tasks in the hive
- C. They rarely leave the hive
- D. They are responsible for mating with the queen

6. According to the passage, why is pollination important?

- A. It helps bees find their way back to the hive
- B. It increases the production of honey
- C. It allows plants to reproduce
- D. It helps the queen bee lay more eggs

7. Which of the following is NOT

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mentioned as a task performed by worker bees?

- A. Feeding the young
- B. Laying eggs
- C. Cleaning the hive
- D. Gathering nectar

8. What is implied about the role of the queen in the hive?

- A. She manages the hive's daily operations
- B. She collects nectar with the workers
- C. Her main role is reproduction
- D. She performs the waggle dance

9. The phrase "highly organized society" in paragraph 2 refers to:

- A. The way bees are taught to communicate
- B. The complex social structure within the hive
- C. The bees' ability to build hives
- D. The way bees store nectar and honey

10. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?

- A. Persuasive
- B. Informal
- C. Descriptive
- D. Critical

11. What is the relationship between the queen bee and the drones?

- A. The drones help the queen gather nectar
- B. The drones protect the queen from predators
- C. The drones fertilize the queen's eggs
- D. The drones are responsible for mating with the queen

12. What can be inferred about bee communication?

- A. It is based only on sound
- B. It relies mostly on scent
- C. It includes complex movement patterns
- D. It is learned from humans

13. The author uses the waggle dance as an

example to:

- A. Show that bees have excellent hearing
- B. Demonstrate the intelligence of bees
- C. Explain how bees compete for food
- D. Show how bees build their hives

14. Which of the following best summarizes the passage?

- A. Honeybees are a nuisance to farmers but produce honey
- B. Honeybee colonies rely on drones to function
- C. Honeybees are vital for pollination and have complex social behavior
- D. The queen bee leads the hive in search of food

15. What is the likely consequence mentioned in the passage if honeybees disappeared?

- A. There would be too much honey
- B. Crops might fail, causing food shortages
- C. Other insects would take over pollination
- D. Farmers would stop growing fruit and vegetables