

Honey bees



The honey bee sucks nectar from flowers using its long, tube-like tongue and stores the nectar in its nectar sac. A bee's nectar sac is also known as a honey stomach.

If the bee gets hungry, some nectar is released from its honey stomach and passed to its real stomach to give the bee energy.

When the bee's nectar sac is full, the bee returns to the hive, where it passes on the nectar to other worker bees.



The honey is used to feed the larvae that have been produced by the queen bee.

Within a few weeks the larvae will develop into fully grown bees.

Soon, young honey bees will be flying around looking for nectar ...

Inside the hive, the bees chew the nectar to reduce its water content. The nectar needs to thicken to become honey. The bees then put the nectar into the cells of a structure called a honeycomb.

The bees also fan their wings to dry the chewed-up nectar, helping it turn into honey.



When the honey is thick enough, the bees cover the cells of the honeycomb with a layer of beeswax. The beeswax comes from glands on the sides of the bees' bodies.



Mark the correct answer with an X

1/ The purpose of the text is to show

how honey bees fly.

where honey bees live.

how honey bees make food.

how honey bees talk to each other.

2/ What do the arrows show in the text?

which picture belongs with each box

the order to read the information

which piece of information is the most important

the direction that honey bees move around the hive

3/ A honey bee uses its tongue like

a fine comb.

a long spoon.

a sharp needle.

a drinking straw.

4/ How do honey bees turn nectar into honey?

by adding beeswax to the nectar

by storing the nectar in their nectar sacs

by reducing the amount of water in the nectar

by passing nectar between the honey stomach and real stomach

5/ Soon, young honey bees will be flying around looking for nectar ...

The way this sentence finishes (...) suggests that

the honey will stay fresh for a long time.

the honey is not good enough to eat.

the life cycle of honey bees continues.

the honey bees have a happy life.

6/ What does the text suggest about honey bees?

They are hard-working.

They make a lot of noise.

They are dangerous to humans.

They get along with other insects.

7/ Write the numbers 1 to 5 in the boxes to show the order of events in the text.

A honey bee chews the nectar.

A honey bee collects the nectar.

A honey bee uses its wings to dry the nectar.

A honey bee adds beeswax to the honeycomb.

A honey bee passes the nectar to another honey bee.