

Making Honey

What happens if bees in a hive are overcrowded, lack food, or just plain feel insecure? They swarm! That is, a group of bees leaves the hive to create a new hive. Beekeepers work hard to prevent swarming. The more bees in the hive, the more honey the beekeeper will collect.

Honeybees love violets, forget-me-nots, cornflowers, and, surprise, honeysuckle. A field of clover is like heaven on earth for honeybees. They visit these flowers and collect nectar, which they then turn into honey. But how do they do that?

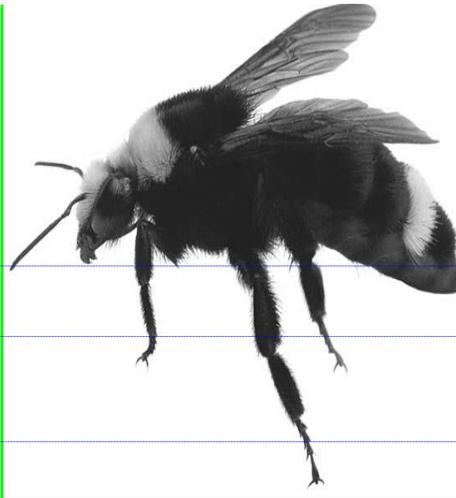
Bees have a regular stomach like ours. They also have a “honey backpack” in which they store the nectar they collect when they make the rounds of their favorite flowers. When her (all worker bees are female) backpack is full, the bee heads back to the hive.

Another worker bee is waiting to suck the honey out of the returning bee’s backpack. She sits around and chews on it for a half hour or so before she deposits it into a bunch of holes in the hive known as a honeycomb.

Water evaporates from the chewed-up nectar, making it pretty thick. The bee seals off the hole in

the honeycomb with a kind of wax to protect the honey. Then she waits for another bee to arrive with more nectar.

The beekeeper harvests a lot of the honey but leaves enough for the bees to live on during seasons when flowers are not in bloom. ■



Comment [M9]: Step 4 of making honey

Comment [M1]: Structural analysis. Prefix in meaning not. The root secure meaning safe.

Comment [M2]: Example Definition

Comment [M3]: Sarcasm

Comment [M4]: Simile

Comment [M5]: Sequence text structure

Comment [M6]: Step 2 of making honey

Comment [M7]: Step 3 of making honey

Comment [M8]: Step 3 process