

Name _____ Date _____

Busy Bees

Honeybees keep busy all year. There are many jobs for them to do. In spring the worker bees find flowers. At each blossom they get pollen or nectar. Then, they return to their hive. They do a dance to tell the other bees where to find the flowers. Then, they enter the hive. They turn the nectar into honey and store it in a honeycomb. They store the pollen to eat later.

The queen lays all of the eggs, and the worker bees do all of the work. All worker bees are females. Some worker bees feed the baby bees. They give them a mix of honey and pollen called beebread. Others build the honeycomb and guard the hive. One set of worker bees spend their lives taking care of the queen.

If you are a bee, you don't want to be a boy. Male bees are drones. Their only job is to mate with the queen. Then, they die.

In the fall, worker bees use water and plant sap to fix cracks in the hive. They must keep cold winds from blowing through the walls. Then, the worker bees gather around their queen and move their wings rapidly throughout the cold winter months. They keep her warm and safe.

Bees may be tiny, but we need them. By going from plant to plant, bees spread pollen. This makes some plants grow fruits and vegetables. Without bees, less fruits and vegetables would grow. We would have less food.





Busy Bees

1. What do the bees do in Spring?

- a. They find a partner.
- b. They find other bees.
- c. They find a new hive.
- d. They find flowers.

2. When can the bees get pollen or nectar?

- a. when the flowers die
- b. when the flowers bloom
- c. when the bees are born
- d. when the bees go home

3. How do the bees tell other bees where the flowers are?

- a. They do a dance.
- b. They sing a song.
- c. They flap their wings.
- d. They don't tell the other bees.

4. What do bees use to make honey?

- a. They use pollen.
- b. They use honey.
- c. They use nectar.
- d. They use the hive.

5. Which bee lays the eggs?

- a. The worker bees lay the eggs.
- b. The honey bees lay the eggs.
- c. The nectar bees lay the eggs.
- d. The queen bee lay the eggs.

6. Are the worker bees male or female?

- a. They are male.
- b. They are female.
- c. They are both male and female.

7. When do the bees fix the hive?

- a. In summer
- b. In spring
- c. In fall
- d. In winter

8. Do we need bees?

- a. Yes, because they spread nectar.
- b. Yes, because they spread pollen.
- c. No, we don't need them.
- d. No, because we don't need honey.