The Busy Honeybee

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: Read the passage **twice**: once to enjoy it, and once to look for details. Then answer the questions. Look back at the text to **prove** your answers.

Tip: Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you answer each question.

The Busy Honeybee



Honeybees are some of the busiest insects on Earth. They live together in a large group called a colony. One colony can have tens of thousands of bees living in a single hive.

Every bee in the colony has a job. The **queen bee** is the largest bee, and her job is to lay eggs, up to 2,000 in a single day. The **worker bees** are all female. They clean the hive, feed the young bees, guard the entrance and fly out to collect food. The **drones** are male bees, and their main job is to mate with a queen.

Worker bees visit flowers to collect a sweet liquid called nectar. Back at the hive, they turn the nectar into honey and store it in wax cells shaped like hexagons. The honey is food for the colony during the winter.

While bees collect nectar, yellow pollen sticks to their fuzzy bodies. When they fly to the next flower, some of the pollen rubs off. This is called pollination, and it helps plants make seeds and fruit. Many of the foods we eat, like apples, blueberries and almonds, need bees to pollinate them.

Bees are small, but they are very important. Without them, our gardens, farms and grocery stores would look very different.

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1. Check your understanding

Circle the best answer.

1. What is a colony?

(a) A large group of bees living together
(b) A kind of flower
(c) The queen's crown

2. What is the queen bee's job?

(a) To make honey
(b) To lay eggs
(c) To guard the hive

3. What shape are the wax cells?

(a) Circles
(b) Squares
(c) Hexagons

4. Why do bees store honey?

(a) To sell it
(b) As food for the winter
(c) To attract flowers

2. Write your answer

Answer in complete sentences. Use details from the text.

1. **What jobs do worker bees do? Name three.**

2. **Explain how bees help plants make fruit.**

3. **What is the main idea of the last paragraph?**

Answer Key

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1. Check your understanding

1. **What is a colony?**
   - a **A large group of bees living together**
   - b A kind of flower
   - c The queen's crown

2. **What is the queen bee's job?**
   - a To make honey
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   - c To guard the hive

3. **What shape are the wax cells?**
   - a Circles
   - b Squares
   - c **Hexagons**

4. **Why do bees store honey?**
   - a To sell it
   - b **As food for the winter**
   - c To attract flowers

2. Write your answer

Sample answers. Students' wording will vary.

1. **What jobs do worker bees do? Name three.**
   They clean the hive, feed the young bees, guard the entrance and collect food.
2. **Explain how bees help plants make fruit.**
   Pollen sticks to bees and rubs off on the next flower. This pollination helps plants make seeds and fruit.
3. **What is the main idea of the last paragraph?**
   Bees are small but very important to our food and gardens.