

BEE FACTS



Bees are flying insects that are closely related to ants and wasps. They live in hives of up to 40,000 bees and play a very important role in nature by pollinating flowering plants.

- There almost 20,000 species of bee. The most common species are honey bees, bumblebees and sweat bees.
- Bees are found on every continent except Antarctica, and in every habitat that has flowering plants.
- Honey bees communicate by dancing. When a worker bee finds a field full of flowers, she will dance directions to show the way.

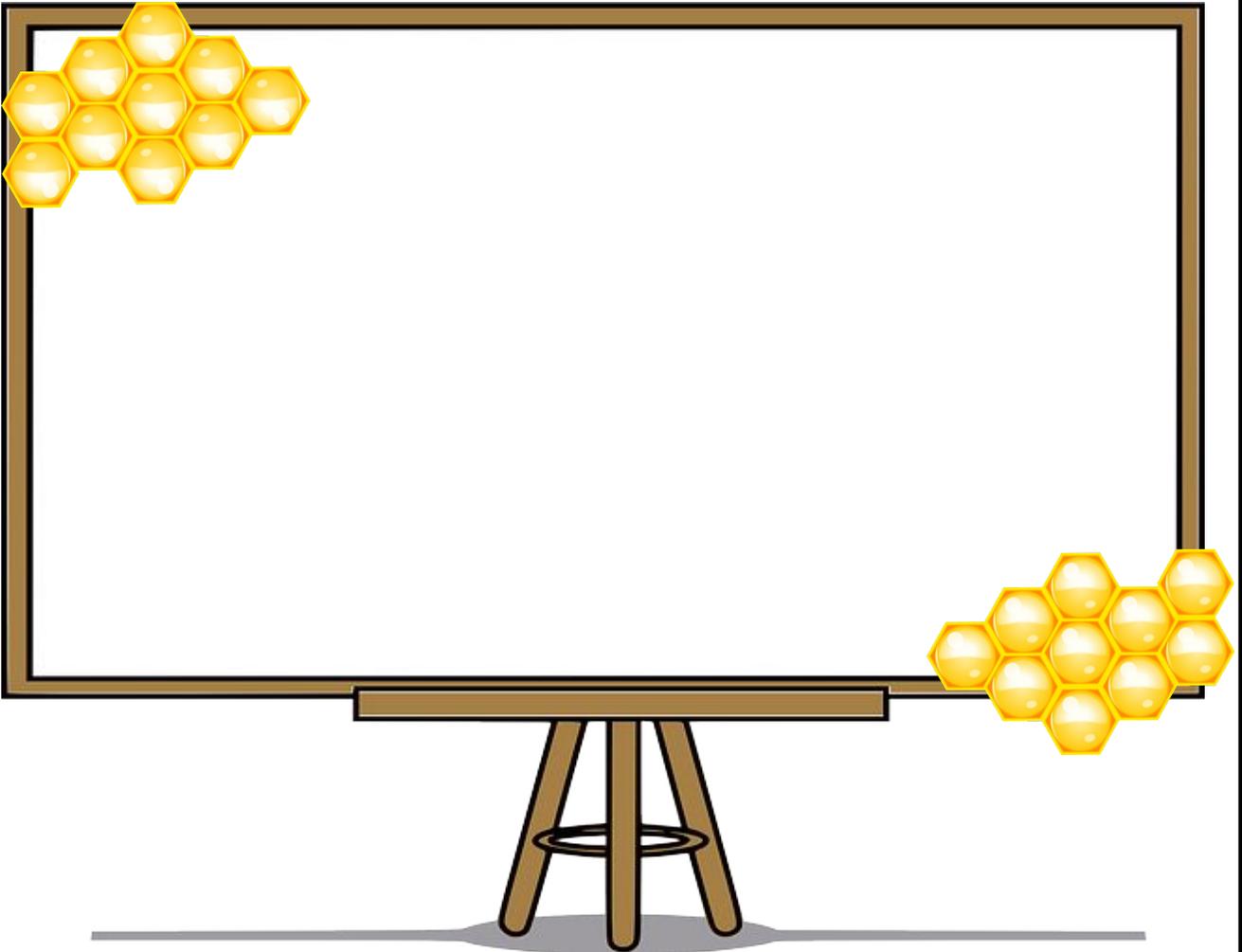
Facts

- Bees feed on nectar by using a long tongue.
- Bees have antennae, two pairs of wings, enlarged hind feet, branched or feathered body hair, and some have a sting.
- Bees are adapted for feeding on nectar, which they turn into honey (a worker bee must visit 4,000 flowers to make 1 tablespoon of honey). They also eat pollen as a source of protein.
- Bees play a very important role in pollinating flowering plants, and have fuzzy bodies, which allows the pollen to stick to the bee.
- The smallest bee is the dwarf bee, which is about 2.1 mm (5/64 of an inch) long and the largest bee can grow to 39 mm (1.5 inches).
- Crab spiders and assassin bugs hide in flowers to capture bees, which can make collecting pollen and nectar dangerous work. But the primary reason honey bees are endangered is because of parasites and man-made pesticides.
- Honey bees and bumblebees live in hives or colonies, which at their peak can have up to 40,000 bees. The colony is made up of one queen bee, thousands of female worker bees, which do not breed, and hundreds of male drone bees.
- A honey bee queen can lay up to 2,000 eggs per day during the spring. She must lay 1,000 to 1,500 eggs per day to account for casualties from daily nectar and pollen gathering.

Name: _____

Bee Sketch

Based on what you've learned about bees' physical characteristics, draw your own version of a bee with its complete parts. After drawing, describe what you drew in 2 to 3 sentences.



Name: _____

Bee How-To's

Can you complete the bee's trail by answering the following questions about bees?

How do bees feed on nectar and pollen?

How does pollen stick to bees?

How do bees produce honey?

How do bees play an important role in nature?



Name: _____

Bee How-To's

ANSWER KEY

Can you complete the bee's trail by answering the following questions about bees?

How do bees feed on nectar and pollen?

By using a long tongue and fuzzy bodies.

How does pollen stick to bees?

By sticking to their fuzzy bodies.

How do bees produce honey?

By turning nectar into honey.

How do bees play an important role in nature?

By pollinating flowering plants.



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