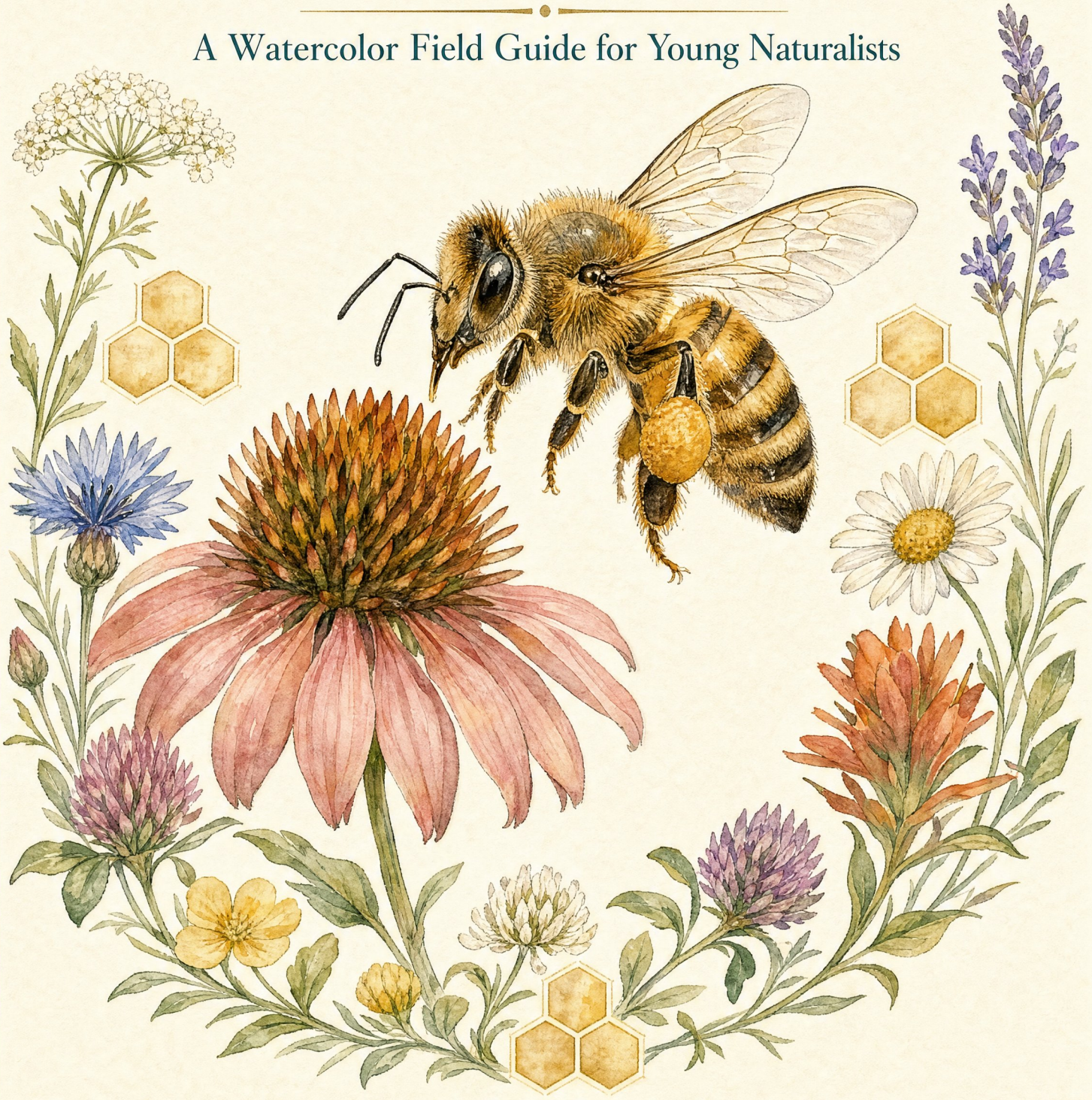
The Honeybee Colony

A Watercolor Field Guide for Young Naturalists



AGES 6 TO 8

28 PRINTABLE PAGES

The Honeybee Colony

A Watercolor Field Guide for Young Naturalists

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INKLINGS WORLD

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How to Use This Packet

Thank you for downloading this packet. Everything inside was drawn and written by hand at Inklings World, and every fact has been checked against published scientific sources - national parks, wildlife agencies and natural history museums. You can teach from it with confidence.

What you downloaded

Your download may arrive as more than one file. That is not a mistake. A single file would have meant compressing the watercolor and losing detail in the printing, so we split it instead. Print the parts in order and they run straight through as one packet - page numbers continue from one part to the next.

Printing

The one setting that matters

Print at 100% or 'Actual size' - never 'Fit to page'. Fit to page shrinks everything slightly, which throws off the ruler on the measuring pages and stops the cut-out pieces fitting together.

- Print single-sided. Several pages get cut apart, and anything on the back is lost.
- Plain paper is fine for the reading and writing pages.
- Use cardstock for the cut-and-assemble pages. They survive being put away and taken out again.
- Printing on A4? It works - choose Fit to page for those pages only, and note the ruler will read very slightly short.
- You do not have to print all of it. Most families print six or eight pages at a time.

The kinds of pages inside

Reading pages - a short passage with a picture, then questions with lines to write on. Read the passage aloud together first. For a younger child, let them answer out loud and write it for them; the science is the point, not the handwriting. About 10 minutes.

Labeling pages - a large accurate illustration with lines pointing to its parts. These come in pairs: one with a word bank of answers at the bottom, one with no word bank. Use the word-bank version first and save the blank one for a few days later as a check. You do not have to use both. About 10 minutes.

Vocabulary and tracing pages - matching words to meanings, and handwriting practice on the words from the unit. These are the quiet pages. 5 to 10 minutes.

Cut-and-assemble pages - anything with dashed lines is meant to be cut. Sorting cards are cut out and placed into the boxes on the page above; no glue is needed unless you want it. Sorting them, talking about it and sorting them again is the activity.

Assembling the life cycle wheel

1. Cut out both circles along the dashed edge. 2. On the cover circle, cut away the shaded wedge - that is the window. 3. Lay the cover on the wheel, lining up the small centre circles. 4. Push a split pin through the middle. 5. Turn the top circle and one stage appears at a time, in order.

Print the wheel on cardstock if you can, and expect to help with the cutting for children under seven. About 20 minutes including the cutting.

The kinds of pages inside, continued

Measuring and counting pages - real measurement with a real ruler, and simple arithmetic using what they have just learned. These are the pages that need Actual size printing, or the ruler will not be true. About 15 minutes.

Field notes - a blank observation page, laid out the way a working naturalist's notebook is. This is our favourite page and the one we would encourage you not to skip. Take it outside. There is no right answer on it: the skill being practised is looking carefully and writing down what you actually saw, which is the foundation of every science that follows. Print several copies.

Answer key - the last page. Print it separately, or leave it on a screen while your child works on paper.

How to work through it

There is no fixed schedule and you cannot do it wrong, but the packet was designed to build: later pages assume the vocabulary from earlier ones. One or two pages a sitting suits it best. Reading page first, then the activity that follows it - they are paired deliberately. Finish with the review page, then go outside with the field notes.

For mixed ages: give the older child the no-word-bank version of a labeling page while the younger one does the word-bank version of the same picture. Same lesson, two levels, one table.

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WELCOME TO THE HIVE

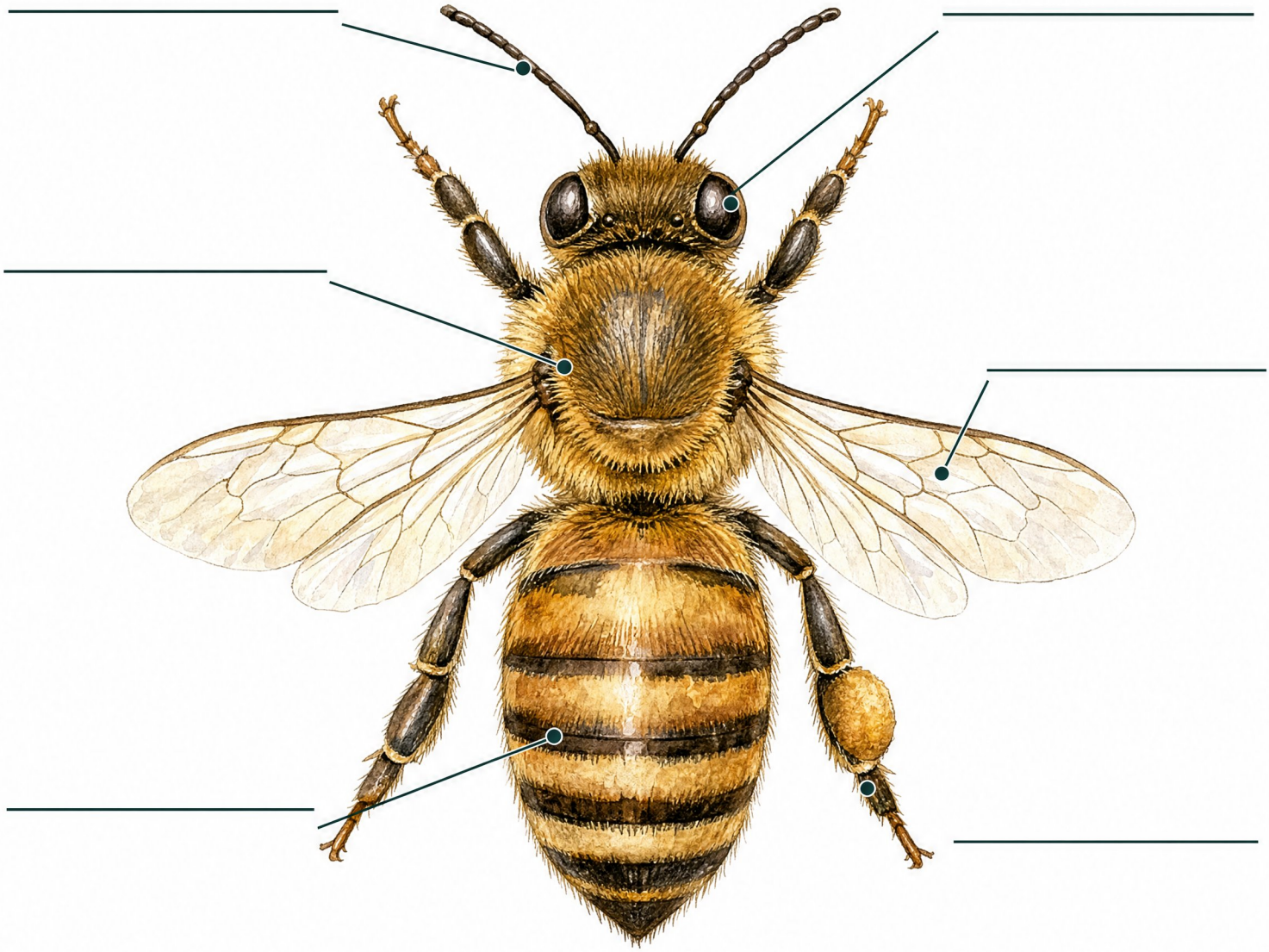


A honeybee colony is a whole city inside one hive. Thousands of bees live and work together. Every bee has a job. In this book you will meet the queen, the workers and the drones. You will follow one bee from a flower all the way home to the honeycomb.

Let us go and meet them.

Parts of a Honey Bee

Write each word on the correct line.

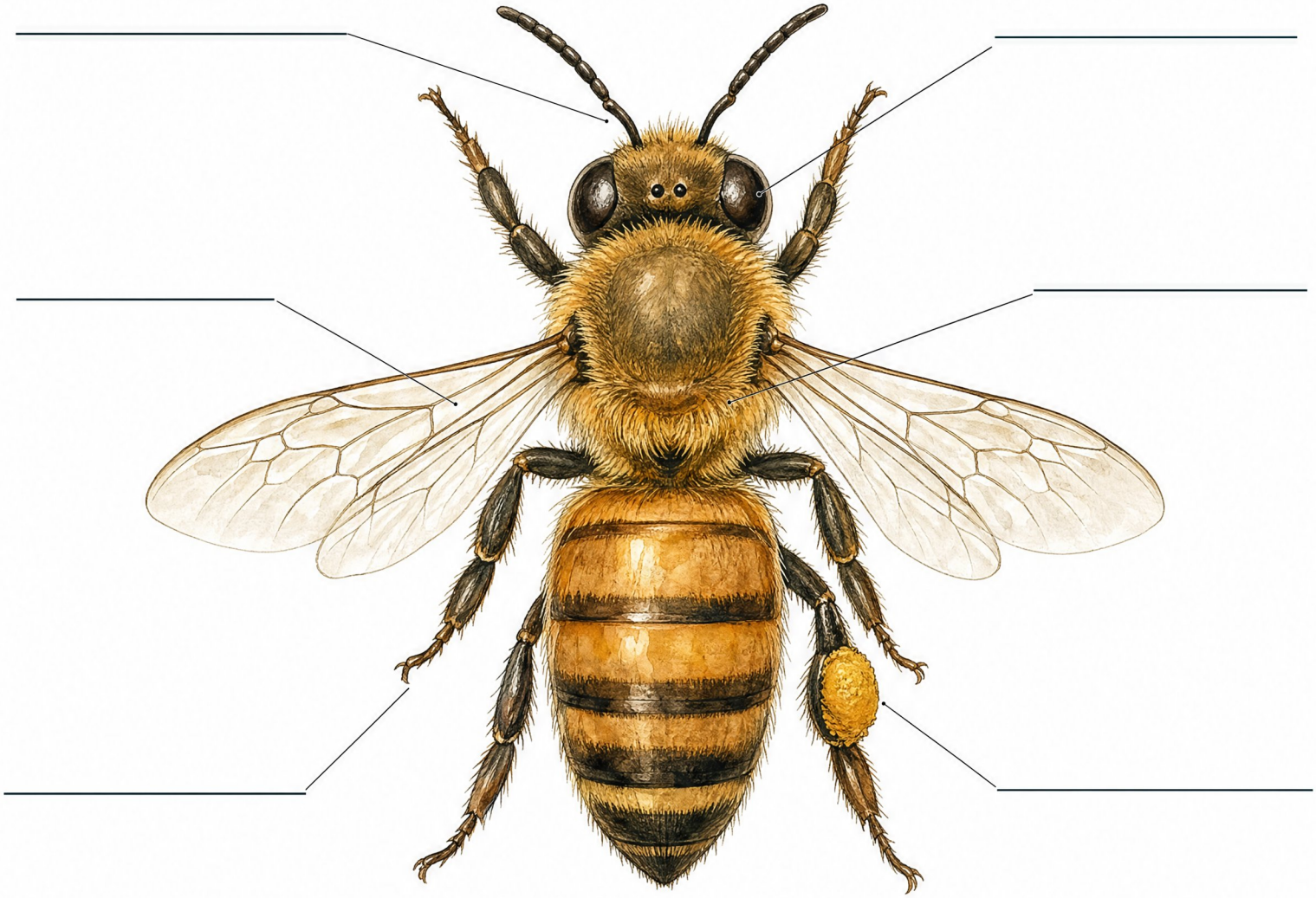


WORD BANK

HEAD THORAX ABDOMEN WINGS LEGS ANTENNAE

PARTS OF A HONEY BEE

Can you label the bee without the word bank?



MY SCORE

Three Bees, Three Jobs

Draw a line from each bee to the job it does.



QUEEN



WORKER



DRONE

Lays all the eggs in the hive

Gathers nectar and pollen from flowers

Helps the queen start a new colony

Did you know

A honey bee beats its wings about 200 times every second.

THE QUEEN



There is only one queen in a hive. She is longer than the other bees. Her job is to lay eggs, and she can lay more than a thousand eggs in a single day. The other bees feed her and keep her clean so she can keep working.

QUESTIONS

1. How many queens live in one hive?

_____

_____

2. What is the queen's most important job?

_____

_____

THE WORKER



Almost every bee you see outside is a worker. Workers are all female. They clean the hive, feed the babies, build the honeycomb, guard the door and fly out to gather nectar and pollen. A worker does a different job at each stage of her life.

QUESTIONS

1. Name two jobs a worker bee does.

_____

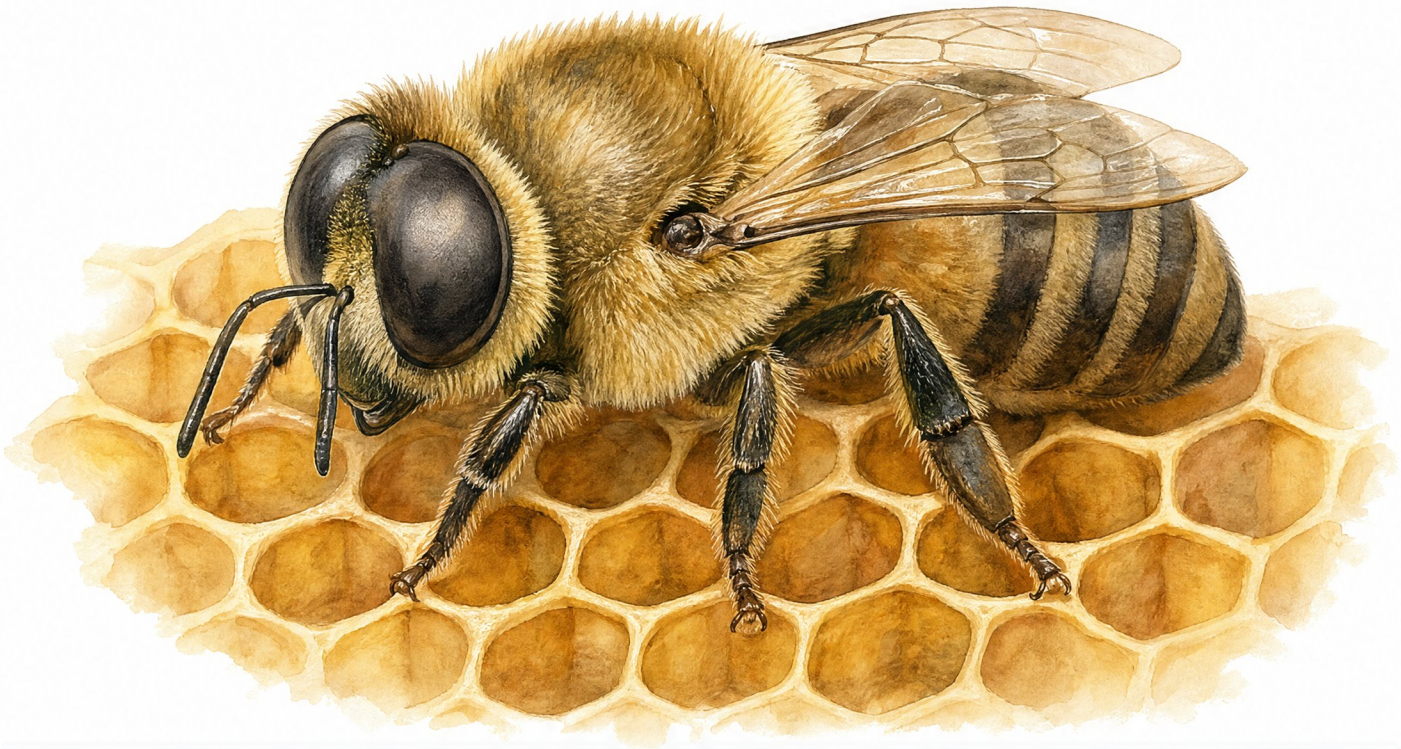
_____

2. What does a worker carry in her pollen baskets?

_____

_____

THE DRONE



Drones are the male bees. They are round and stout with very big eyes. Drones do not gather nectar and they do not have a stinger. Their one job is to help a queen start a new colony. In autumn the drones leave the hive.

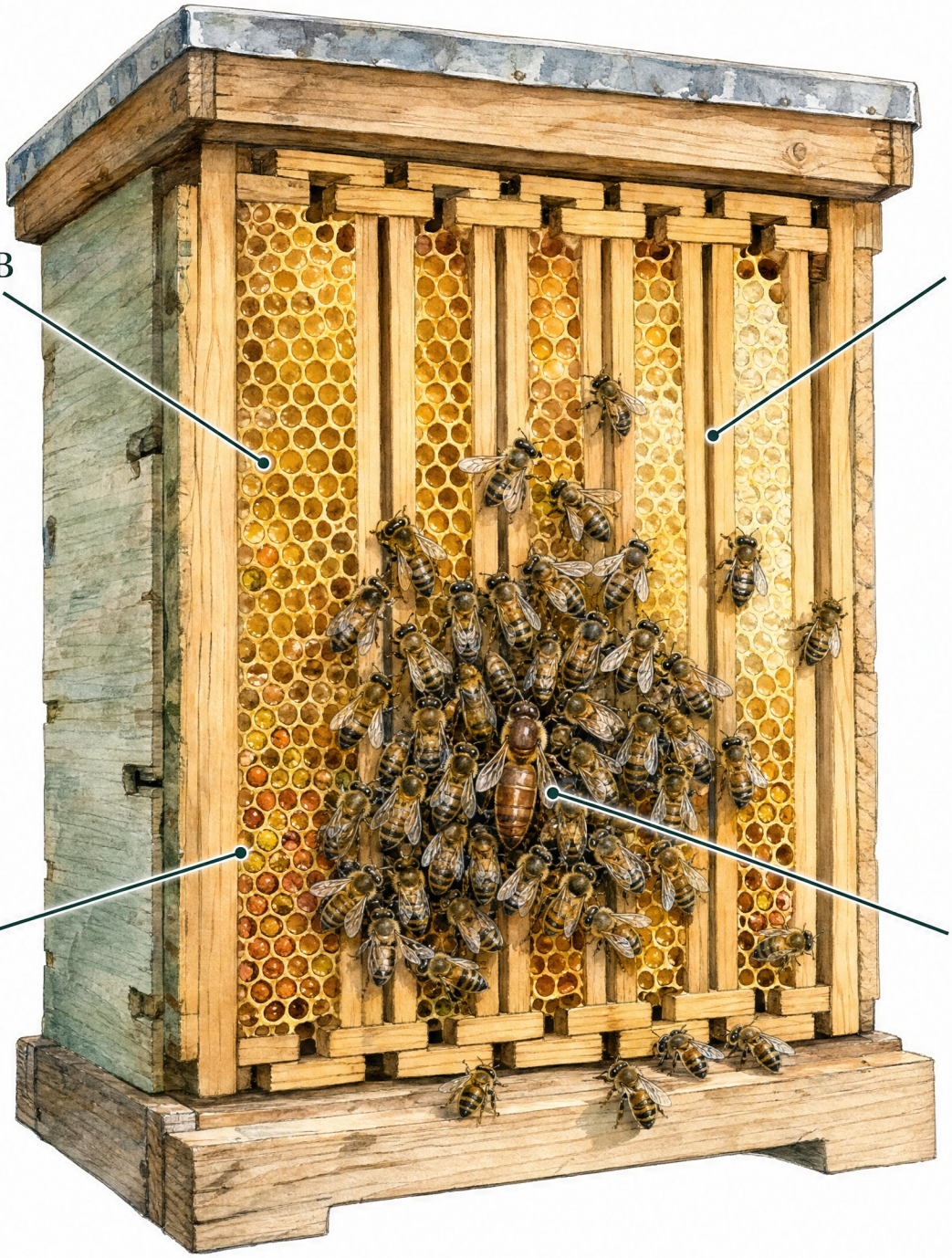
QUESTIONS

1. How can you tell a drone from a worker?

2. What is a drone's job?

INSIDE THE HIVE

Read the labels and find each part in the picture.

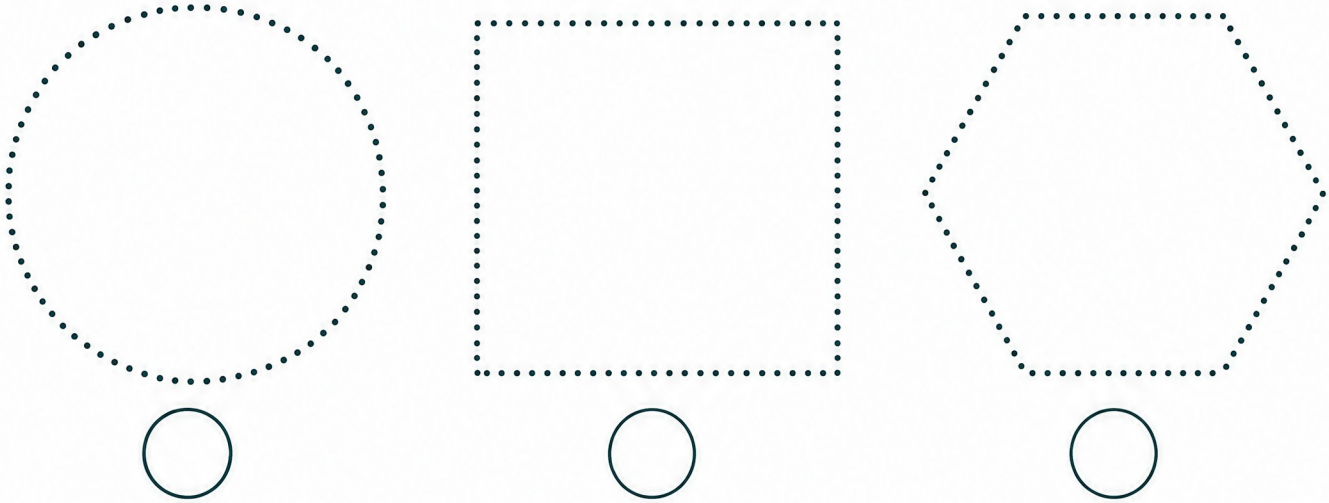


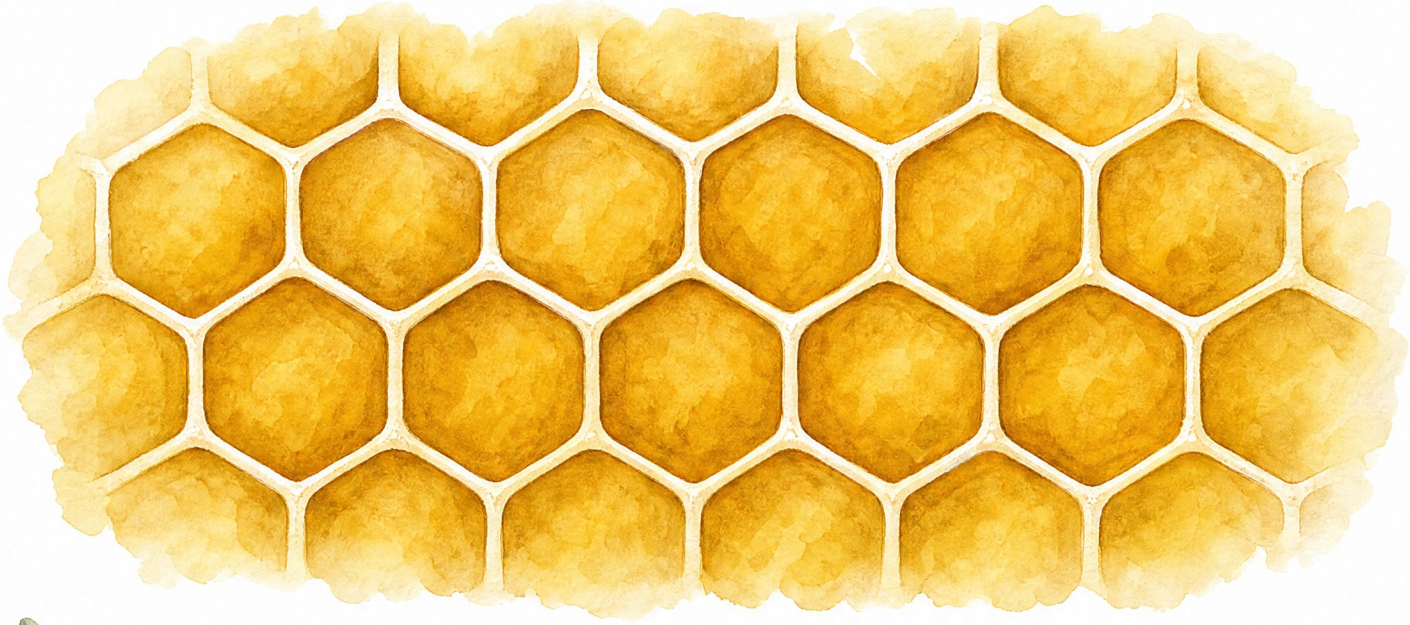
DID YOU KNOW

Bees build honeycomb out of wax that comes from their own bodies.

WHY HEXAGONS?

Trace the shapes.
Then colour the one that fits together with no gaps.





Hexagons fit together with no gaps, so bees can store the most honey using the least wax.

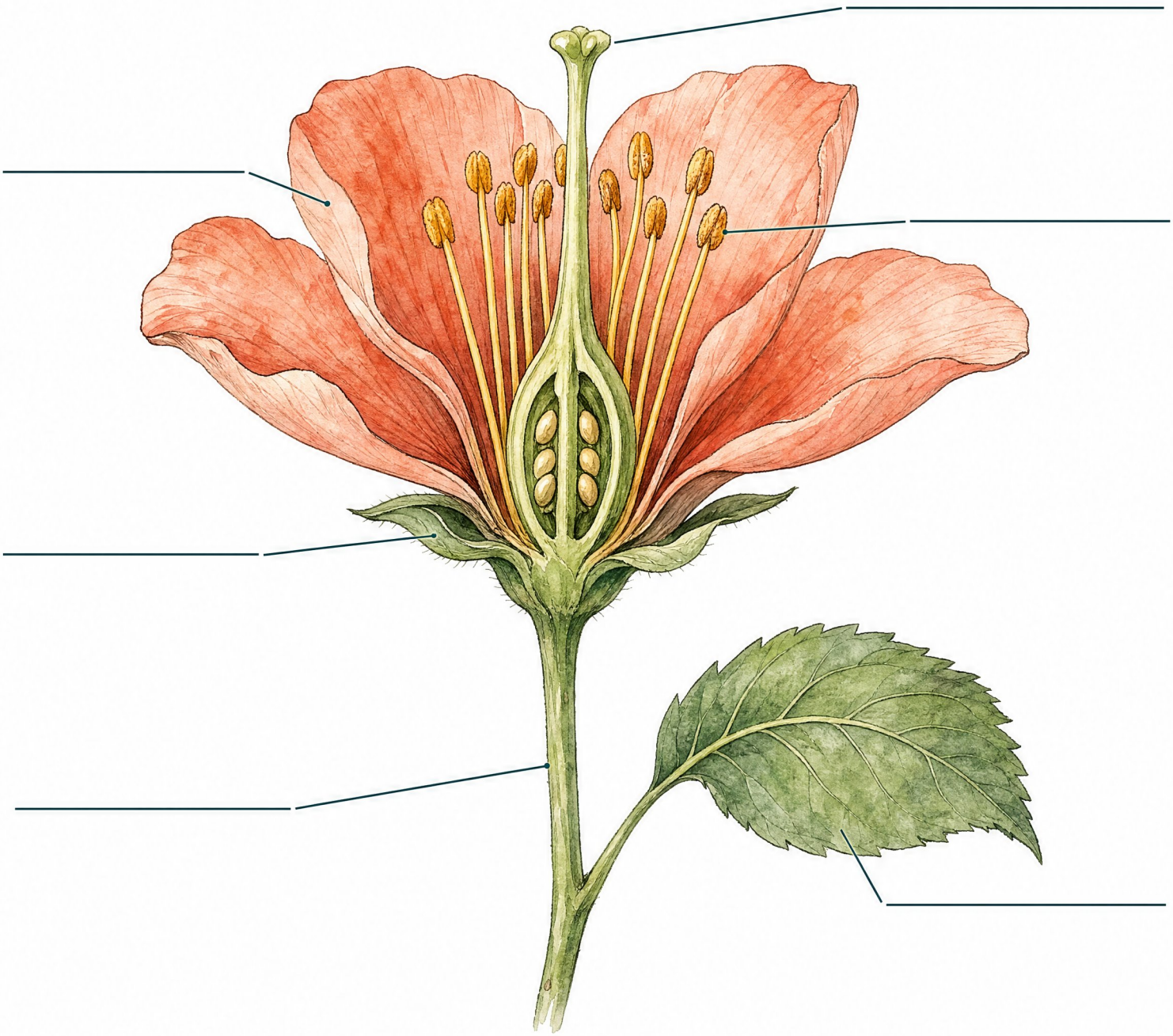
Which shape did the bees choose?

_____

_____

PARTS OF A FLOWER

Write each word on the correct line.

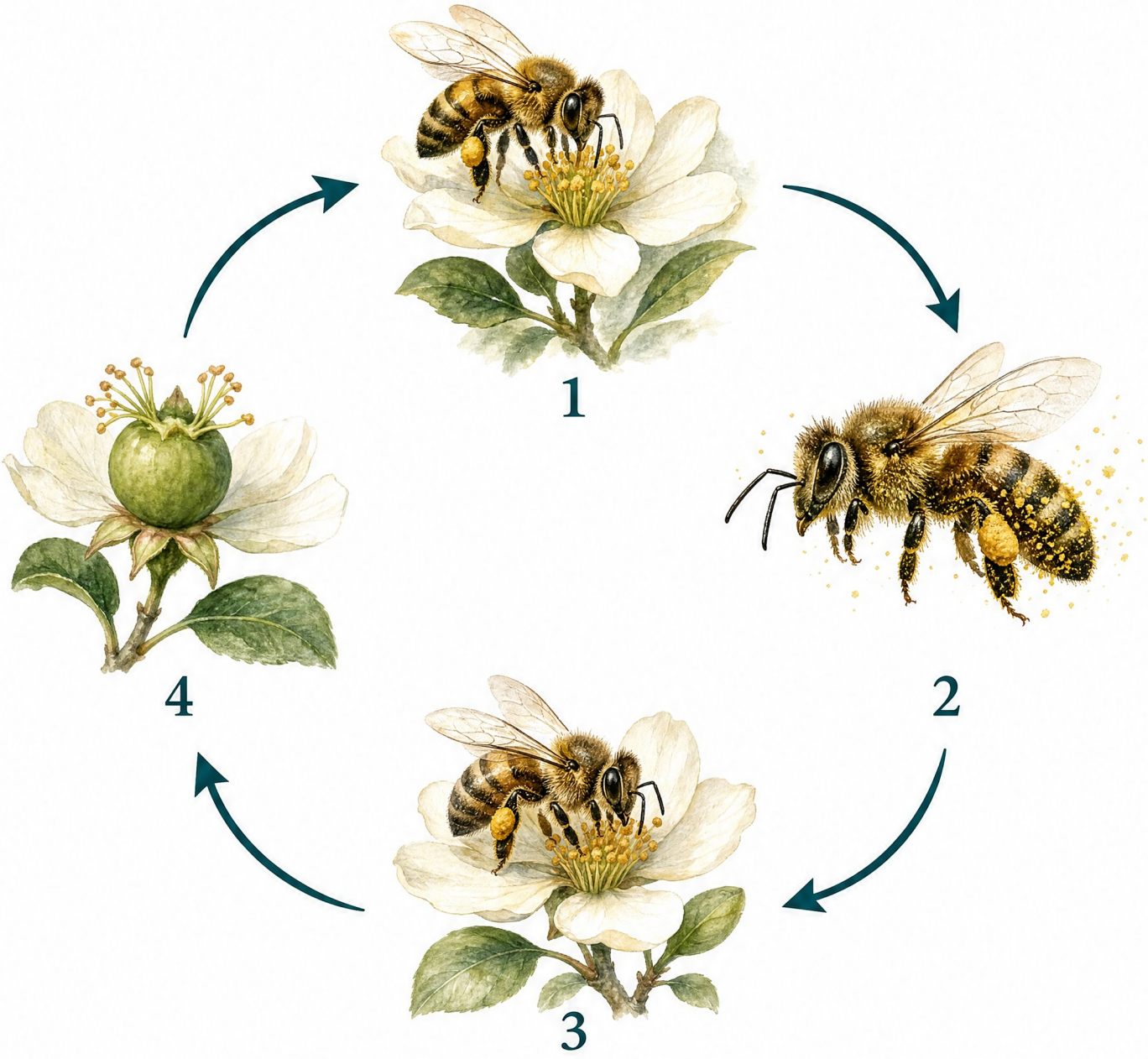


WORD BANK

PETAL	SEPAL	STAMEN	PISTIL	STEM	LEAF

HOW POLLINATION WORKS

Follow the arrows and read each step.



1. A bee visits a flower for nectar.
2. Pollen sticks to her fuzzy body.
3. She carries it to the next flower.
4. The flower can now make seeds and fruit.

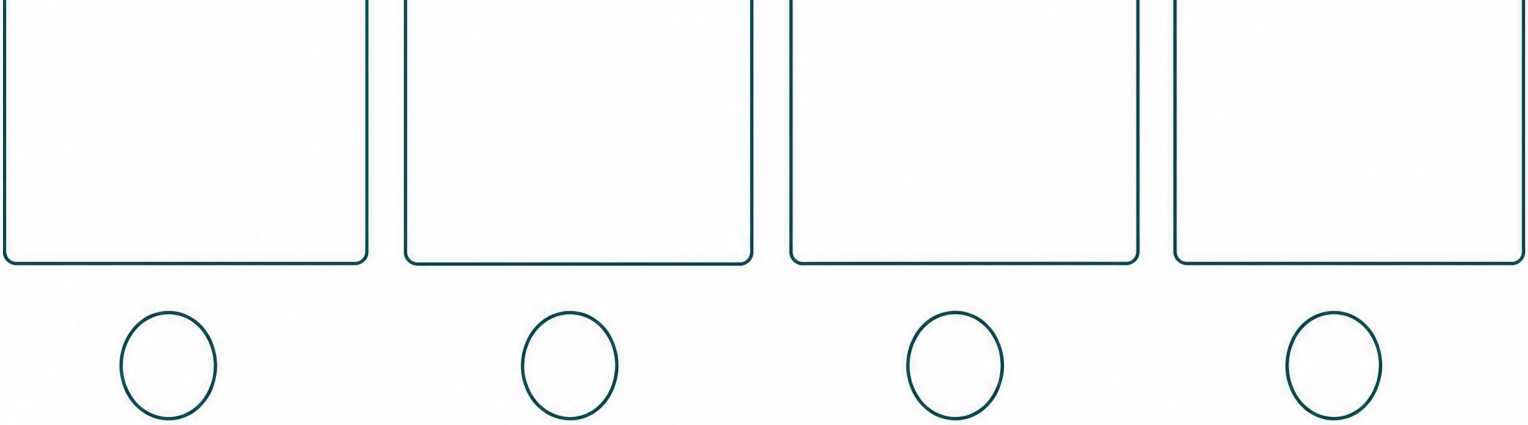
What would happen with no bees?

_____

_____

From Flower to Honey

Cut out the pictures and glue them in order.











NECTAR OR POLLEN?

Cut out the cards and sort them into the right column.

NECTAR

POLLEN













FLOWERS BEES LOVE

Colour the flowers you have seen. Then draw one of your own.



LAVENDER



SUNFLOWER



CLOVER



CONEFLOWER



BORAGE



APPLE BLOSSOM

MY FLOWER

POLLINATOR OR NOT?

Tick the animals that help flowers make seeds.



☐ Honey Bee



☐ Butterfly



☐ Hummingbird



☐ Moth



☐ Beetle



☐ Earthworm



☐ Spider

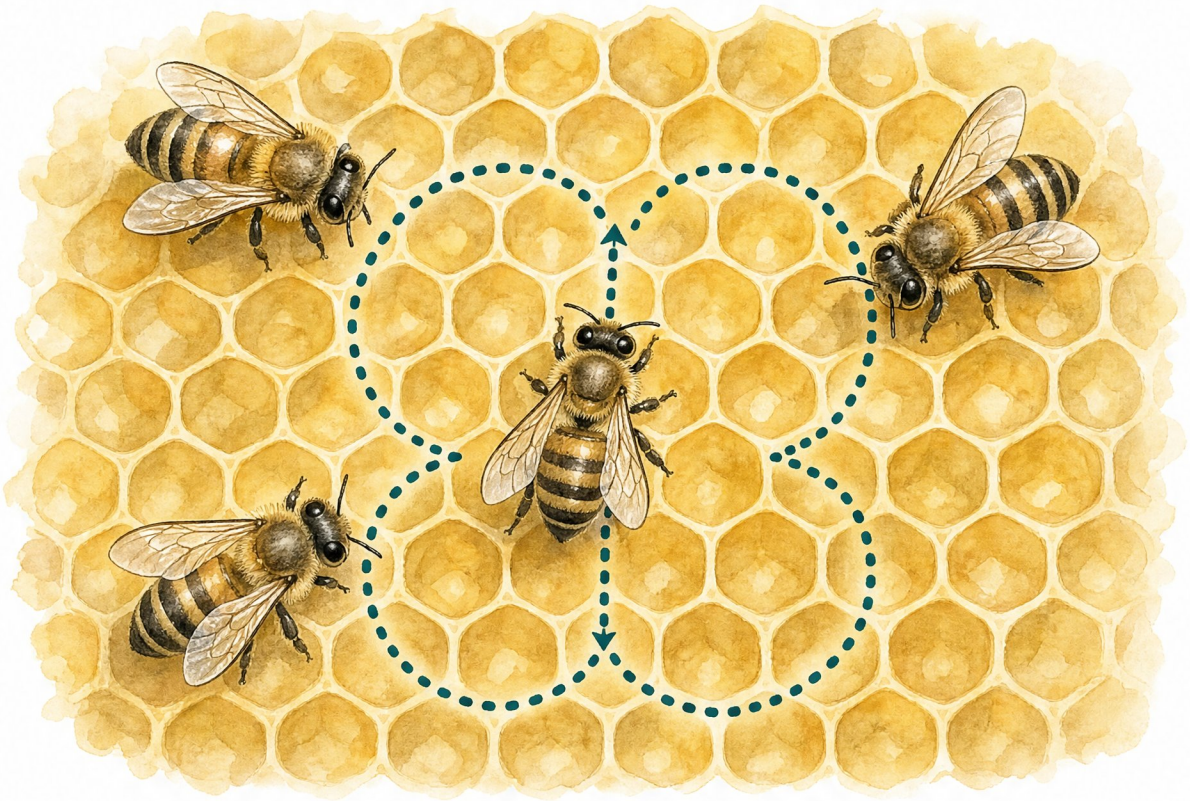


☐ Snail

REMEMBER

A pollinator moves pollen from one flower to another.

THE WAGGLE DANCE



When a bee finds good flowers she comes home and dances. She walks a figure eight and waggles through the middle. The other bees feel the dance in the dark and learn which way to fly and how far.

QUESTIONS

1. What shape does the dancing bee walk?

2. Why can the other bees not just look?

FOLLOW THE DANCE

Draw a line from the hive to the flowers the dance points to.



The dance points to the _____ patch.

BEE WORDS

Draw a line from each word to what it means.

NECTAR	A home where bees live.
POLLEN	The sweet liquid inside a flower.
HIVE	All the bees living together.
COMB	To fly out and gather food.
FORAGE	Wax cells shaped like hexagons.
COLONY	Yellow dust that flowers make.

TRACE THE WORDS

Trace each word, then write it once on your own.



NECTAR _____



POLLEN _____



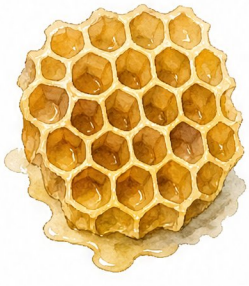
HIVE _____



QUEEN _____



WORKER _____



COMB _____

COUNT THE FLOWERS

Count the flowers in each meadow patch. Write the number in the box.











Add your four numbers.

A BEE'S DAY

Number the pictures from 1 to 6 to show the order.













DID YOU KNOW

One worker bee makes only about a twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in her whole life.

FRUITS THAT NEED BEES

Draw a line from each blossom to the fruit it becomes.



APPLE BLOSSOM



PUMPKIN



PUMPKIN FLOWER



BLUEBERRIES



STRAWBERRY FLOWER



APPLE



ALMOND BLOSSOM



ALMONDS



BLUEBERRY FLOWER



STRAWBERRY

FIELD NOTES

Go outside and watch a flower. Draw what you see.

DATE _____

WEATHER _____

WHAT FLOWER _____

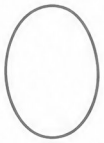
WHO VISITED IT _____

How long did the visitor stay? _____

DRAW A BEE

Follow the four steps. Then draw your own bee in the big box.

1



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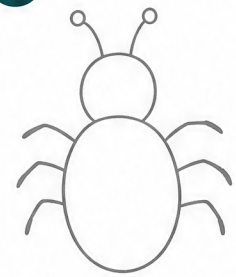

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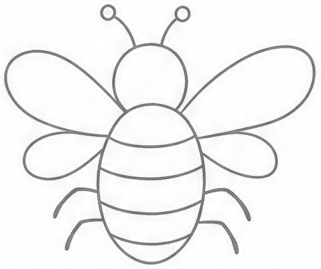
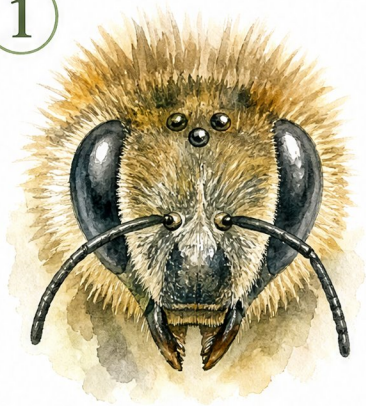


MY BEE

SIX BEE FACTS

1



A bee has five eyes, two big ones and three small ones.

2



A bee's wings beat about two hundred times every second.

3



Bees can taste with their feet.

4



Bees visit about two million flowers to make one pound of honey.

5



A bee smells with her antennae.

6



Honeycomb cells are always hexagons.



What I Learned

Answer in your own words.

1. Name the three kinds of bee in a hive.

2. What does a worker bee carry in her pollen baskets?

3. What is pollination?

4. Why do bees dance?

5. Name one fruit that needs bees.

The most surprising thing I learned was



ANSWER KEY

For grown-ups and teachers.

p5 PARTS OF A HONEY BEE
head, thorax, abdomen, wings, legs, antennae.

p6 PARTS OF A HONEY BEE (no word bank)
Same six labels as page 5.

p7 THREE BEES, THREE JOBS
Queen lays all the eggs in the hive. Worker gathers nectar and pollen from flowers. Drone helps the queen start a new colony.

p12 WHY HEXAGONS
The hexagon. It tiles with no gaps and uses the least wax.

p13 PARTS OF A FLOWER
petal, sepal, stamen, pistil, stem, leaf.

p14 HOW POLLINATION WORKS
Answers will vary. Without bees far fewer flowers would be pollinated, so there would be fewer seeds and less fruit.

p15 FROM FLOWER TO HONEY
Bee on the flower, bee flying home, bee entering the hive, honey in the comb. The cut-outs are already in that order on the strip.

p16 NECTAR OR POLLEN?
Nectar: the flower with the golden drop, the bee drinking from a flower, the honey jar. Pollen: the flower with loaded anthers, the bee with a full pollen basket, the bee dusted yellow.

p18 POLLINATOR OR NOT?
Tick honey bee, butterfly, hummingbird, moth and beetle. Leave earthworm, spider and snail. Beetles surprise people — they are among the oldest pollinators of all.

p20 FOLLOW THE DANCE
The dance points to the poppy patch.

p21 BEE WORDS
nectar is the sweet liquid inside a flower, pollen is yellow dust that flowers make, hive is a home where bees live, comb is wax cells shaped like hexagons, forage is to fly out and gather food, colony is all the bees living together.

p23 COUNT THE FLOWERS
Counting the large blooms only: 3, 4, 6, 3. Sixteen altogether. The small background sprigs are not counted.

p24 A BEE'S DAY
1 waking on the comb at sunrise, 2 leaving the hive, 3 on the apple blossom, 4 home with a full pollen basket, 5 dancing on the comb, 6 the colony at dusk.

p25 FRUITS THAT NEED BEES
apple blossom to apple, pumpkin flower to pumpkin, strawberry flower to strawberry, almond blossom to almonds, blueberry flower to blueberries.

p29 WHAT I LEARNED
Answers will vary.

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