

# The Buzz on Bees

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**Grade Level:** 3-6

**Objective:** After completing this activity, students should be more familiar with the format of a short reading passage followed by multiple choice questions, which is found on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT).



**Illinois Learning Standards:** 1.A.2a; 1.A.2b; 1.A.3a; 1.A.3b; 1.C.3d;  
**Assessment Framework:** 1.4.04; 1.6.03; 1.6.06; 1.6.14; 1.6.15

**Suggested Reading Materials:**

Hooray for Beekeeping! By Bobbie Kalman

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**Activity Instructions:**

1. This lesson was designed to resemble short reading passages that could be found on the ISAT test. The excerpts were taken from Hooray for Beekeeping! by Bobbie Kalman.
2. Have students read the passages and answer the questions that follow.

**Lesson Extender:**

1. To get your students engaged in reading, try this activity with Wikki Stix. Wikki Stix are a teaching tool made of yarn covered in wax. They are bendable and stick to almost all smooth surfaces. When doing reading activities, have your students underline the topic sentence or the closing sentence. This will help them learn different parts of a paragraph.
2. Have your students underline words they don't know with the Wikki Stix. Then have a discussion on what those words mean.
3. For more ideas on how to use Wikki Stix, visit [www.wikkistix.com](http://www.wikkistix.com).

*Excerpt Taken From*  
**Hooray for Beekeeping!**  
*By Bobbie Kalman*



Bees do not make honey for money. They make honey to feed themselves. To make honey, forager bees collect nectar, a sweet liquid found in flowers. The forager bee sticks out her long tongue and sucks up the nectar. She stores the nectar in a special stomach called the honey stomach.

When the forager bee's honey stomach is full, she flies back to the hive. She passes the nectar to a house bee, who swallows it. In the house bee's honey stomach, chemicals called enzymes are added to the nectar. The nectar slowly turns into a drop of honey, which the house bee puts into a comb cell. She fans the honey with her wings to dry up any extra water. When the cell is full of honey, the bee closes it with a cap of wax.

Bees make a lot more honey than they need. The beekeeper takes the extra honey to sell. He or she must be careful not to take too much, or the bees will starve.

**4th Grade**

**1.**

Why do bees make honey?

- A. For us to eat.
- B. To feed themselves.
- C. To get rid of the extra weight to make it easier to fly.
- D. For beekeepers to sell.

**2.**

What is nectar?

- A. The juice of a nectarine.
- B. A chemical added to honey.
- C. A type of wax.
- D. A sweet liquid found in flowers.

**3.**

What is the next step after the nectar is sucked up by the forager bee?

- A. She spits it back out.
- B. It is turned into honey.
- C. It is stored in the forager bee's honey stomach.
- D. It is transferred to another flower.

**4.**

What will happen if the beekeeper takes too much honey from the bees?

- A. The bees will starve.
- B. The bees will freeze.
- C. The bees will become angry and sting the beekeeper.
- D. Nothing.

*Excerpt Taken From*  
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When it is sunny and warm, forager bees spend the day collecting nectar and pollen from flowers. They start when the sun comes up and spend the day going from flower to flower. When they find pollen, bees let other bees know where it is by doing special dances called the wagtail dance and the round dance.

Forager bees collect pollen to feed to the young bees in the hive. Each bee has a pollen basket on her hind legs in which she stores pollen. She collects pollen on her body, moistens it with nectar, and then scrapes it into her pollen baskets with her legs. The bee returns to the hive when her pollen baskets are full of pollen and her honey stomach is full of nectar.

Bees belong to one colony, and the queen bee is their leader. A beekeeper does not worry that the bees will leave for good. Bees always return to their hive.

While forager bees gather food, house bees are busy storing pollen in cells, making honey, and cleaning the hive.

**6th Grade**

**1.**

If you wanted to learn more about becoming a beekeeper, you would—

- A. Research beekeeping on the internet and through books.
- B. Knock down a bee hive to see what the bees will do.
- C. Interview a beekeeper.
- D. Both A and C would be ways to learn more about beekeeping.

**2.**

What is the **synonym** for the word *cell* in the sentence below?

While forager bees gather food, house bees are busy storing pollen in **cells**, making honey, and cleaning the hive.

- A. A microscopic structure with a nucleus.
- B. Various small compartments that together form a whole.
- C. A place where prisoners are kept.
- D. A mobile telephone.

**3.**

Paragraph 2 of this passage is mainly about—

- A. Why bees collect pollen.
- B. How bees collect pollen.
- C. Where bees collect pollen from.
- D. What pollen is.

**4.**

Which type of writing is this passage?

- A. Narrative
- B. Persuasive
- C. Expository
- D. Descriptive