

## **Bees: One Big Family**

### **Big World of Insects, Spiders & Bugs Series**

**Subject Areas:** Science, Life Science, Biology

**Synopsis:** Life in a beehive is shown close-up in this program. Bees are seen as they move about the hive caring for larvae and keeping the hive cool. Larvae are seen developing into adult bees. The social order of bees is discussed and the many tasks of the female workers are shown and described. The importance of nectar and honey is shown.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to list and describe the many tasks that the female worker bees perform for the hive.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to describe the social order of bees.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to describe how a bee develops from egg to adult.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to discuss the importance of nectar and pollen to bees.

**Vocabulary:** Define and discuss the following key terms:

Hive, ventilation, larva, grub, royal jelly, transformation, emerge, nectar, pollen, accommodations, social insects, honeycomb, foraging, specialized, consistency

**Pre-Viewing Questions and Discussion:**

- 1) Do you think bees are useful for humans? Why?
- 2) What is a society? Do animals (insects) have societies?

**Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:**

- 1) What is causing the 'ruckus' at the hive when the program starts? How do the bees deal with this?
- 2) Describe the role of the queen bee. Why is she important to the hive? How many eggs might she lay in a day?
- 3) Describe the development of an egg as it transforms to an adult bee. What do grubs eat?
- 4) List the tasks of a worker bee.
- 5) What two things do bees get from flowers?
- 6) Why are these honeybees called 'social' insects? What is the social order of these bees? How many bees might live in a typical hive?
- 7) How far might a bee forage?

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- 8) When foraging, where does a bee store the nectar and pollen?
- 9) Why do the cells in the honeycomb vary in color?

### **Additional Activities:**

- 1) Write a fictional story that describes a typical day in the life of a worker bee. What tasks does the bee have to perform? How does the bee feel about this?
- 2) Research honey. How is honey made? How much honey does a typical bee make? How do people harvest honey? Do different species of bees make different kinds of honey? Does honey spoil? Present your findings in a report.
- 3) Create a poster that shows the developmental stages a bee goes through from egg to adult. Describe what happens at each stage.
- 4) The six-sided cells of the bees' honeycomb are said to be special and important. Explore why this design is important. Is it strong? Is it an effective use of space? Have humans used this design? Present your findings in a report.
- 5) Draw a detailed picture of a bee and label the head, thorax, abdomen, six legs, wings, and antenna. Also show where the bee stores the pollen it collects.

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