

READ THE PASSAGE Think of questions you have about the information.

The Buzz About Honeybees

What animals live in homes filled with sweet, sticky stuff? Honeybees! Honeybees and people both like to eat honey. Honeybees do the work that makes this sweet food.

To make honey, honeybees need a lot of nectar. Nectar is a kind of sugar water found inside flowers. First, a worker bee lands on a petal. She uses her long tongue to sip the nectar. She stores the nectar in a special honey stomach. That stomach is different from her regular stomach. She may make hundreds of stops before her honey stomach is full. Next, the bee flies her heavy load back to the hive. Then, she spits up the nectar. Another worker bee chews on the nectar for quite a while. Then, she puts the sticky stuff into a wax cell of the honeycomb. More worker bees fan their wings to help dry the nectar. As it dries, it gets very sticky. Finally, the sugars turn into honey for the bees to eat.

All of these worker bees do their jobs over and over. It takes a lot of nectar to make enough honey to feed the thousands of bees in the hive.

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. Do male or female honeybees gather nectar? How do you know?

2. When and how do the bees dry the nectar?

3. Does a single honeybee visit only a few flowers? What text evidence lets you know?

STRATEGY PRACTICE Tell a partner the important steps in making honey.