

Lesson Plan

Three Kinds of Bees

Book: *Beehives*

Series: Animal Engineers

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice identifying the ways the three different kinds of bees (workers, drones, and queens) work together to build and maintain a beehive.

Supplies

- *Beehives* book
- Three Kinds of Bees Statements (attached)

Before the Activity

Read through the *Beehives* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Three kinds of bees live together in a hive. Each kind of bee has a different job to do. They work together to help all the bees in the hive stay alive. Chose a student to read page 6 out loud to review what each kind of bee does for the hive. Then play the following game.

First, have students stand and practice the following actions to represent each kind of bee:

- **Queen:** The queen is the head of the colony. To remember this, form a crown with your hands by touching your thumbs together and your pinkies together and having your other fingers stick up into the air. Then place this crown on top of your head.
- **Worker:** The workers build the hive and collect pollen and nectar. To remember this, bend your elbows so that your hands are tucked up next to your shoulders to look like little wings. Then flap your hands up and down as if you are flying.
- **Drone:** Drones are bigger and heavier than worker bees, but they do not do as much work. To remember this, make fists and cross your arms so that your hands are tucked under your armpits. Then hunch over a bit to make yourself look big and heavy.

Next, explain that you will read a statement out loud. Students should do the action that matches the kind of bee this statement describes. After you read each statement, you will say the correct answer out loud. Students who guessed the correct answer get to stay standing. Everyone else must sit down.

Evaluation

The last student left standing wins the game.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 3 (RI 3.1).

Three Kinds of Bees

1. I feed nectar and pollen to larvae. (**WORKER, p. 17**)
2. I lay the eggs for the hive. (**QUEEN, p. 6**)
3. Most bees in my hive are the same kind of bee as me. (**WORKER, p. 9**)
4. I am a male bee. (**DRONE, p. 6**)
5. I help repair the hive. (**WORKER, p. 6**)
6. There are usually a few hundred bees like me in each hive. (**DRONE, p. 9**)
7. I might be a scout and search out a location for a new hive. (**WORKER, p. 11**)
8. I can lay more than 2,000 eggs each day. (**QUEEN, p. 21**)
9. There is only one bee like me in each hive. (**QUEEN, p. 9**)
10. I secrete wax from my body. (**WORKER, p. 13**)
11. I shape the wax into cells to build the hive. (**WORKER, p. 13**)
12. Bees like me hatch from cells in the lower part of the comb. (**DRONE, p. 19**)
13. When I was a larva, I ate only royal jelly. (**QUEEN, p. 21**)
14. I leave the hive to collect pollen and nectar. (**WORKER, p. 18**)
15. Thousands of other female bees like me live in my hive. (**WORKER, p. 6**)
16. I use glands in my throat to make a substance called royal jelly. (**WORKER, p. 28**)
17. I mate with the queen. (**DRONE, p. 6**)
18. I am larger than all the other bees. (**QUEEN, p. 6**)
19. I protect the larvae. (**WORKER, p. 6**)
20. I am about twice as heavy as a worker bee. (**DRONE, p. 19**)
21. I hatch from a long, tall cell that hangs down from the comb. (**QUEEN, p. 21**)