

# What's the BUZZ About Beekeeping?



Wait! Stop!

Where are you going?! I have important things to tell you about Honey Bees... why?!?! Because I'm a bee!

My name is Beelinda,

and while we know honey is a sweet, delicious treat, it takes our WHOLE colony to make it.

Worker



Queen



Drone

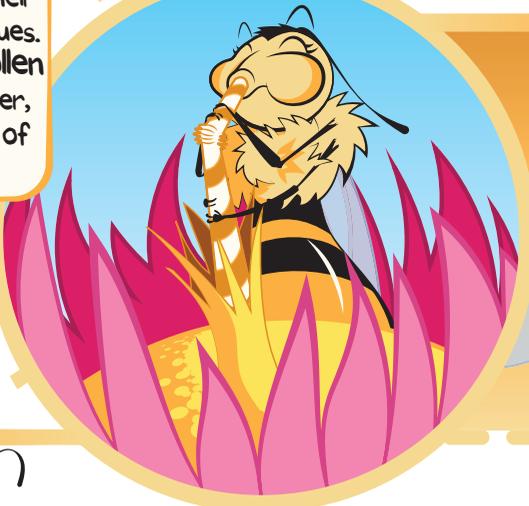
...Each bee has a role. The girl bees are the workers, we handle the honey making process, raising young bees, and more! The Queen gives orders and lays eggs. Male bees are called Drones, they don't do much besides being the queen's boyfriend. Lazy bunch if you ask me...

Fine by me!



Workers leave the hive to collect nectar and pollen from flowers using their long, straw-like tongues. We also transfer pollen from flower to flower, which is the process of pollination!

## NECTAR



Back at the Hive, the nectar we collect is chewed and mixed with special chemicals in our mouths... then we spit that stuff into a honeycomb cell.



## HONEYCOMB



Once the nectar dries, the cell is sealed shut with wax to be harvested later.

The beekeeper takes a hefty portion of honey and pollen to sell for their many uses.

And THAT is how you get Honey!

Wait!

Bees do a whole lot more than make honey!

## HONEY!



Who said that?!



I Did!  
Beekeeper  
Kurt!

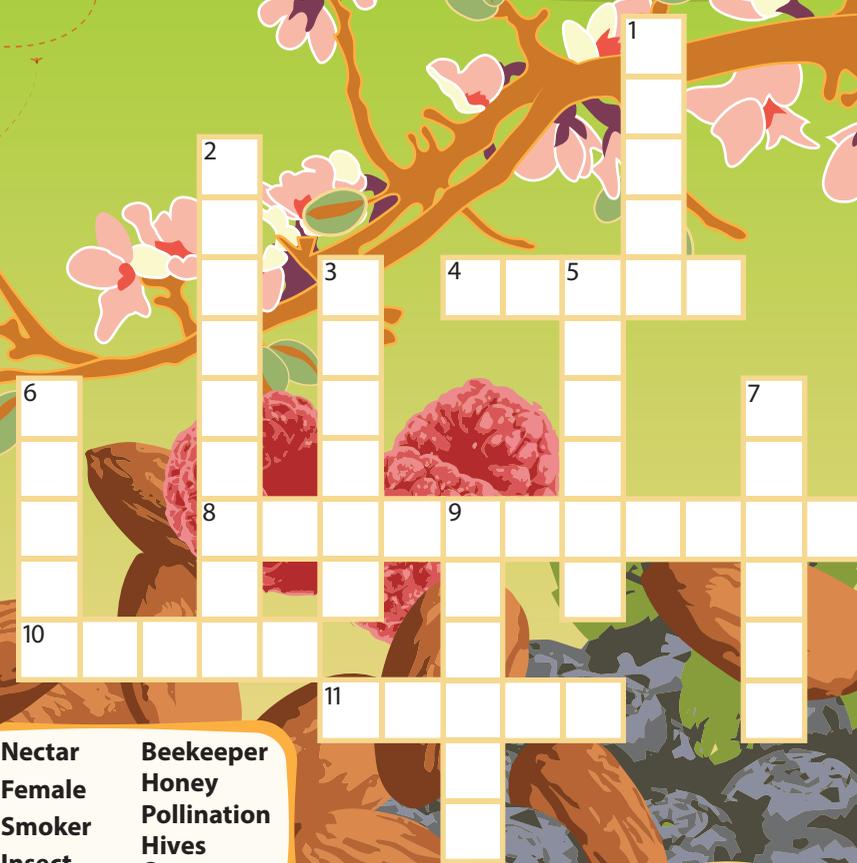
Did you know  
honey bees are  
responsible for a  
lot of the food  
we all eat?

In order for plants to **grow fruit**, their  
flowers need help from **pollinators** like honey bees.  
**Just imagine**, food stores would look empty without  
them! Some crops, like **almonds** or **blueberries**, rely almost  
**entirely** on bee pollination! That's the beauty of beekeeping!

Beekeeping is an agricultural practice dating back thousands of  
years. By maintaining healthy bees & hives, I can help grow food  
and flowers in our gardens, farms and orchards and the bees make  
more delicious honey I can use. I can also use other things from the hive  
such as beeswax for candles.

If you see a bee, don't panic.  
They're just busy pollinating and  
making honey. **But Beware!**

Bees will **sting** if they are  
bothered! That's why I wear  
this protective beesuit and use  
a **smoker** tool to keep them  
calm as I work.



**Across**

- 4. A sweet treat made by bees
- 8. This is the process that allows crops to grow fruit.
- 10. When bees are looking for a new home they \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11. This type of honey bee lays up to 2000 eggs per day.

**Down**

- 1. A male bee is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. A person who takes care of bees.
- 3. All Worker Bees are this gender.
- 5. A sweet liquid bees collect from flowers.
- 6. These are the homes bees live in.
- 7. This tool is used to calm down bees.
- 9. Bees are the only \_\_\_\_\_ that make food people harvest.

**Word Bank:** Nectar, Beekeeper, Female, Honey, Smoker, Pollination, Insect, Hives, Queen, Drone, Swarm

**GET INVOLVED!**

Show your support for our flying friends by planting native flowers in the garden to aid them in honey production, or spread the word about how important honey bees are to our everyday life.

**YOU CAN HELP!**

Help scientists learn about the bees in your neighborhood! Count the bees and other pollinators in your backyard for 3 minutes and report your findings at:

<http://100.ucanr.edu>

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