

## EXERCISE 1

Fill in the blanks.



1. There are over 20,000 species of bees. However, only 4 of these 20,000 species produce enough honey to count as honeybees.
2. Honeybees live in large colonies with a clear social order.
3. Each colony has one breeding adult female, called a queen.
4. A queen bee can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day.
5. The queen's eggs also produce a small number of males, or drones. These males mate with the new queen. Most of the queen's eggs produce thousands upon thousands of female sterile worker bees.
6. The worker bees collect pollen and nectar from flowers and plants to make the honey which feeds the hive.

## EXERCISE 2

Answer the questions.

1. State two English sayings about bees and their meanings.
  - a) Busy as a bee – very busy, always working.
  - b) A hive of activity – a very busy place that is full of people and with lots of activities going on.
  - c) Go and tell it to the bees – bees are good communicators. They listen well and give clear instructions. So if you have a problem, tell it to someone who is willing to listen and give you good advice.

2. What is "royal jelly"?
- a) Honey for the drones
  - b) Honey for the kings and queens
  - c) Nourishing food for the young bees, queen bees and humans
3. How do bees communicate with one another?
- a) By singing
  - b) By using their stings
  - c) By dancing and wagging their tails



Honeycomb © sammy-davisdog / flickr.com

## Learning Activities

1. There are many different types of honey made in different parts of the world and they all taste different. Why is this so?

Honeys vary in terms of colour and taste throughout the world. This difference depends on the type of flowers the honeybees gather the nectar or sweet liquid from. The colour ranges from nearly colourless to dark brown, and the flavour varies from mild to bold. In general, the lighter-coloured honeys are milder in taste, and the darker-coloured honeys are stronger. In the US, there are over 300 types of honey. e.g. clover honey, alfalfa honey, orange blossom honey, wildflower honey and basswood honey.

2. Ask students to bring in honey. Identify where they come from. Then compare their colour and taste. Research into the types of honey made in your area. From which flowers do the honeybees gather nectar?

The giant honeybees in Malaysia, *Apis dorsata*, feed on the nectar of durian flowers and dipterocarps (canopy or tall trees).



Honeybee on aster © Muffet / flickr.com



Honeybee on lavender © Ryan Wick / flickr.com