

ACTIVITY SHEET

DIY BEE HOTEL

OVERVIEW

Use recycled and natural materials to create a place for worker bees rest during their long commutes!

Bee hotels can provide a safe spot for bees to take a break from flight, catch a quick snooze or meet up with friends along their journey to pollinate flowers, fruits and vegetables. Not all bees pollinate flowers close to the beehive, therefore they can use these hotels as temporary homes. Hang your bee hotel outside in a tree in your yard!

MATERIALS

- Natural materials that have fallen off trees or plants (tree bark, pine cones, hollow reeds...)
- Small sticks and twigs
- Recycled newspaper
- Twine or string
- Large recycled plastic container
- Scissors and tape



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Honeybees are important because they help plants grow! Honeybees pollinate fruits, vegetables and flowers. Did you know there are three types of honeybees? There are queen bees, worker bees and drone bees. Worker bees are the ones that do most of the pollinating. These bees help produce food for humans through pollination.

The transfer of pollen from one flower or plant to another is called pollination. Flowers and plants depend on pollination because without it they cannot grow and produce another flower or plant.

Honeybees are disappearing in some areas at a fast rate due to something called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). This disorder causes worker bees (the ones who pollinate flowers, vegetables and fruit) to all disappear from a hive. Colony collapse disorder is well known in the bee community because it kills off large numbers of honeybees. Many factors contribute to Colony collapse disorder such as viruses, mites, parasites and pesticides. Winter can also contribute to bee colonies dying but is not a contributor of CDD.



In Canada, winters can be very cold. On average, about one in four bees die during the winter in Canada.

(Source: CAPA Statement on Colony Losses • www.capabees.com/shared/2018-2019-CAPA-Statement-on-Colony-Losses.pdf)

Our goal is to help those worker bees find a safe spot to rest during their busy days.

FUN FACT → Honeybees fly at a speed of around 25km per hour and beat their wings 200 times per second!

(Source: 10 Facts About Honey Bees • www.natgeokids.com/za/discover/animals/insects/honey-bees/)



ACTIVITY SHEET

DIY BEE HOTEL

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1 → Collect your materials including: sticks, twigs, pine cones, tree bark, hollow reeds, bamboo stems (or any other materials that you find outside), large plastic container, twine or string, scissors, tape and newspaper.



STEP 2 → Using your scissors, cut your recycled plastic container to form a tube that will allow you to put your collected materials in both ends!



STEP 3 → Using your newspaper, roll a single sheet at a time to form a tight tube. Tape the tube so that it keeps its shape! Cut the tubes into smaller pieces that are about the same length as your sticks and twigs.



STEP 4 → Using your twine or string, cut a piece to wrap around your sticks, twigs, newspaper rolls and other natural materials. Wrap it tight & don't forget to tie a knot to keep it together.



ACTIVITY SHEET

DIY BEE HOTEL

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 5 → Place the tied up sticks, twigs, newspaper rolls and other materials inside the plastic tube! If it is not a tight squeeze, try adding more materials inside the plastic tube.



STEP 6 → Using twine or string, hang your bee hotel in a tree and watch the bees enjoy a well deserved rest!



FOLLOW UP

Watch *Storyline Online: Please Please the Bees* read by Rashida Jones (<https://youtu.be/-XFQNGJmLEk>). See how the main character Benedict plans to also help the honey bees!



USEFUL RESOURCES

Canadian Wildlife Federation: Explore Our Pollinators [cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/encyclopedias/fauna/explore-our-pollinators.html](https://www.cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/encyclopedias/fauna/explore-our-pollinators.html)

Garden At School: Pollination Games [gardenatschool.wordpress.com/2012/06/16/pollination-games/](https://www.gardenatschool.wordpress.com/2012/06/16/pollination-games/)

More at [pinnguaq.com/learn](https://www.pinnguaq.com/learn)

