



A Time to Dance

Introduction

In the book *In the Trees, Honey Bees* by Lori Mortensen, students are introduced to the language of bees. For example, when scout bees locate places rich with flowers they return to the hive and perform a waggle dance to tell others where to find them. In this activity, students make up their own bee dance.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Space for students to move and dance
- ◆ A copy of the book *In the Trees, Honey Bees* by Lori Mortensen

Key Concepts

- ◆ Bees depend on the flowers in their environment to survive.
- ◆ Bees work together for the mutual benefit of the colony.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. After reading the book, *In the Trees, Honey Bees*, discuss the ways that the bees communicated.
2. Ask students to make up their own bee dance.
3. Invite students to think about what they'd like to communicate to others through their dance.
4. Give each student a chance to perform.
5. After each dance, have the other students guess what the dancer was trying to communicate.
6. Have the dancer reveal the correct answers.

Nature Connections

- ◆ In what other ways do bees communicate? Invite students to describe the type of communication and the purpose.
- ◆ Play "Find the Flower." Select two students. One waits outside while the other hides a flower in the room. When the other student returns, the class helps the student find the flower by buzzing louder as the student gets closer.

Additional Resources

The National Honey Bee Board
<http://www.honey.com/nhb/downloads>

Tales from the Hive
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/bees>

National Geographic Creature Features
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/honeybees>

