



# Busy as a Bee

## Introduction

A honey bee colony may have up to 50,000 bees. Each of them has duties to perform for the survival of the colony. Invite students to identify and draw four bee tasks featured in *In the Trees, Honey Bees*. By selecting and depicting these different chores, students will understand important characteristics of honey bees, their life cycle, and how they depend and interact with their environment.

## Materials Needed

- ◆ Paper
- ◆ Pencil, crayons, and markers
- ◆ Other art supplies such as glitter and glue.

## Key Concepts

- ◆ Honey bees are adapted to perform different tasks in the hive as they mature.
- ◆ Honey bee colonies depend on their environment for survival.
- ◆ Honey bees survive because of group cooperation.

For standards correlation please see our website.

## Procedure

1. Pass out paper and art supplies.
2. Have students fold their papers in half, then half again.
3. When the paper is unfolded, there will be four sections, all the same size.
4. Use each section to draw a different bee task.
5. When finished, students can hold up their pictures and others can guess which task they've drawn. How many different types of tasks were shown overall? Which tasks are performed in the hive? Which tasks are performed outside the hive?

## Nature Connections

- ◆ Cut the pictures from this activity into four parts. Invite students to combine their pictures and put them in order from the first chore, feeding the larvae to the last chore, as a field bee gathering nectar and pollen.
- ◆ Go outside. Look and listen for bees. Where are they? What are they doing? Do they have "baskets" of pollen on their legs?

## Additional Resources

There are many different types of bees around the world. Encourage students to find out more information with the list below:

- ◆ Honey Bees
- ◆ Bumble Bees
- ◆ Ground Bees
- ◆ Digger Bees
- ◆ Carpenter Bees
- ◆ Cuckoo Bees
- ◆ Leafcutter Bees
- ◆ Wasps
- ◆ Hornets

