



Beeswax Candle

Introduction

In the book, *In the Trees, Honey Bees* by Lori Mortensen, readers can see how bees make honeycomb out of wax. The bees use the wax honeycomb to raise brood, make honey, and store food. In this activity, students will study honeycomb structure by making candles out of beeswax.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Beeswax sheets
- ◆ Wicks
- ◆ Scissors

Key Concepts

- ◆ Organisms have different abilities for different functions.
- ◆ Organisms can cause changes.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Purchase beeswax sheets from a bee supply store locally or online. Each sheet is approximately 8" x 16". The beeswax sheets come in a variety of colors. One sheet makes one candle.
2. Buy wicks from craft supply store or bee supply stores that carry them.
3. Lay sheet flat on table. Decide if you want to make a tall, thin candle, or a short, wide candle.
4. Lay wick along one edge of wax, matching end with corner of wax.
5. Cut the other end of wick, leaving about 1" extra from edge of wax.
6. Slowly warming the wax with your fingers, gently but tightly, roll wax around the wick.
7. Continue rolling until the candle is complete.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Honey bees use wax for many important reasons. People do too. Invite students to list as many things as they can think of that are made of wax. (Ideas include cosmetics, furniture polish, car wax, crayons and artificial flowers.)
- ◆ Invite students to use extra wax to mold other creatures or things found in the book. Invite student to share what they made and why.

Additional Resources

How Do Bees Make Honey?

<http://www.health-benefits-of-honey.com/howdobeesmakehoney.html>

Making Honeycomb

http://www.for-children.com/w_creaures02.html

Honeycomb Structure

<http://www.gpnc.org/honeybee.htm#COMB>

