

## Vocabulary: Honeybee Hive



### Vocabulary

- **Beeswax** – a substance that come out of a bee’s body and is used to build the hive.
  - People use beeswax to make candles and makeup.
- **Drone** – a male bee.
  - Drones have wider bodies and larger eyes than workers.
  - A drone’s only job is to mate with a queen.
- **Cell** – a hexagon-shaped compartment inside a honeycomb.
  - Cells are made of beeswax.
  - Many cells put together make up the beehive.
- **Forager** – a worker bee that collects nectar and pollen from flowers.
  - Older workers are usually foragers.
  - Forgers perform waggle dances to tell other foragers where to find food.
- **Hexagon** – a six-sided shape.
- **Honey** – a thick, sugary liquid that is made from the nectar of flowers.
  - Foragers store nectar inside their stomachs. The nectar is mixed with enzymes and is then regurgitated (thrown up) into a cell.
  - Bees fan air over the cell to evaporate water, thickening the honey.
- **Larva** – a baby insect.
  - Larvae undergo metamorphosis to become adult insects.
  - During metamorphosis, insects completely change from a worm-like animal with no legs to an animal with legs, body segments, and wings.
- **Nectar** – a sugary liquid found in the flowers of plants.
- **Nurse** – a worker that cares for the hive.
  - Nurses feed and take care of the queen and larvae.
- **Pollen** – tiny grains found on the stamen of flowers.
  - Pollen is used for flower reproduction.
  - Bees eat pollen. Pollen is a source of protein, fats, and other nutrients.

- Queen – a female bee that lays all the eggs for the hive.
  - The queen is larger than the workers.
  - The queen is the only bee in the hive that can lay eggs.
  - The queen produces a chemical, called “queen substance,” that prevents other workers in the hive from becoming queens.
- Royal jelly – a substance that is produced by nurses and is fed to larvae.
  - All larvae are given royal jelly for three days. After this, royal jelly is no longer fed to most larvae and they become workers.
  - Larvae that continue to get royal jelly after three days will become queens.
- Waggle dance – a movement performed by foragers that tells other bees where to find food.
  - The direction of the waggle dance relative to the top of the hive tells the bees the direction of the food source compared to the position of the sun.
  - The length of the waggle portion of the waggle dance shows the distance away from the hive that the food source is.
- Worker – a female bee that cannot reproduce.
  - Most of the bees in the hive are workers.
  - Nurses and foragers are two types of workers.
  - Workers perform many jobs, including foraging for food, making wax to build the hive, keeping the hive cool by fanning their wings, using their stingers to guard the hive from intruders, and caring for the queen and baby bees.

