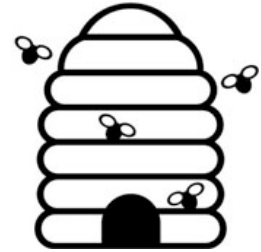




Save the Honey Bees!

3rd – 5th Grades
Post-Trip



Objectives:

*Students will be able to describe the three kinds of honey bees (queen, worker, drone) and their duties in the hive.

Post-Trip Lessons/Activities:

1. What do guard bees do?

-Start a class discussion about the type of enemies honey bees might have. Ask students to explain their guesses. Explain that several insects eat honey bees, spiders trap honey bees in their webs and birds, toads and lizards will eat honey bees given the chance. What about skunks? Skunks come out at night and scratch at bee hives. Ask students what the bees would do to defend themselves against a skunk? What would the skunk do? How would the bees defend themselves against other enemies?

-Explain to students that guard bees will attack if an enemy comes too close to a hive entrance to protect the hive. Guard bees are middle aged (18- 21 days old in an expected life cycle of 35- 45 days), these bees are the most alert in the bee community. Being a guard bee is a big job, so if the guard bees need help other bees will stop their work and come to help defend the hive.

-The way that bees know an animal is an enemy is by its scent or smell.

2. Sniff and Scout

-Prepare cotton balls with one scent (something like peppermint). Give each student a scented cotton ball, explain that this is the scent of their hive. Ask them if they can recognize the smell of their hive.

-Select several students to be guard bees, have a few others be worker bees and then have the rest of the students leave the room.

-Before sending the students in the hall back into the room, select a few to be bees from another hive. Give those students new cotton balls with a different scent. Have all the students return to the classroom and mix in with the guard and worker bees.

-As the bees mingle together, have the guard bees try to detect the bees from the other hive.

-After the guard bees detect all of the unfamiliar bees, bring the whole class together and talk about the effectiveness of depending on the sense of smell to detect enemy bees.

3. Have students create their own Readers Theater about “A day in the life of a Worker Honey Bee”.