Honey

Introduction

Do you like to eat honey? The next part of the booklet is about honey – where it comes from and how it is stored.

You will read about

• how bees collect a sweet juice called nectar
• how they store it in a honeycomb
• how they do a special ‘dance’ for other bees.

There is also a recipe for honey cakes, like the ones Bear made in the story, which you may like to try later.

A What is the next part of the booklet about?

☐ flowers  ☐ wax

☐ dancing  ☐ honey

B What is stored in a honeycomb?

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Making honey

Honey is made by bees from the nectar they collect from flowers. They store the honey in honeycombs inside their nests, and use the honey as food.

There are different sorts of bees. Honeybees make more honey than other bees. They make twice as much honey as they need.

15 What does the bee use the nectar for?

☐ keeping warm  ☐ making honey

☐ going to a flower  ☐ doing a dance

16 Which bees make more honey than other bees?

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In the country, some bees make their nests in places like the trunk of a tree.

Bees make honeycombs with wax from their own bodies. The gaps in the honeycomb are where the honey is stored.

17 Where does the wax for the honeycombs come from?

☐ the trees  ☐ the ground

☐ the bees’ bodies  ☐ the bees’ wings

18 Where in the honeycomb is the honey stored?

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Beehives

In gardens or on farms, beekeepers keep bees in beehives like this one so they can collect the honey. About fifty thousand bees live in one beehive.

A beehive

- **honeycombs** where honey is stored
- **sloping roof** lets rain run off
- **slits** let air into hive
- **platform** bees land here
- **entrance** where bees go into hive
19  Why do people keep bees in beehives?

- [ ] to keep them as pets  - [ ] to stop them stinging
- [ ] to keep them hidden  - [ ] to collect the honey

20  About how many bees live in one hive?

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21  How is air let into the hive?

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22  What helps the rain run off the hive?

- [ ] the platform  - [ ] the sloping roof
- [ ] the honeycombs  - [ ] the slits
How bees feed

The bee sucks nectar with its mouth, which is shaped like a tube.
Bees fly hundreds of times between flowers and their honeycombs.

23 How does the bee collect the nectar?

- [ ] with its body
- [ ] with its wings
- [ ] with its legs
- [ ] with its mouth

24 What does it say the bee’s mouth is shaped like?

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The bee’s dance

When a bee finds a lot of nectar, it does a ‘dance’ when it gets back to the nest or hive. The ‘dance’ shows the other bees where to find the nectar.

Bees ‘dance’ by waggling their bodies and pointing the way to the food. If they waggle a lot, it means the food is a long way away.

25 Why does a bee ‘dance’?
- to tell other bees where to find the nectar
- to show it is happy
- to stop other bees finding the nectar
- to show it is working hard

26 What does it mean if bees waggle a lot?
A recipe for honey cakes

Honey is used in lots of different recipes. Here is one for honey cakes.

**Honey Cakes**

2 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons honey  
1 mug porridge oats  
10 paper cases

1. Put butter and honey into a pan and heat slowly. When these have melted together, mix in the oats.

2. Put a spoonful of the mixture into each of the paper cases.

3. Put the paper cases on a metal tray, and place in a hot oven for about 10 minutes.

4. When cool, the honey cakes are ready to eat.
27 How much butter do you need?

28 When do you add the oats?

- [ ] when the butter and honey have melted
- [ ] when the cakes are cool
- [ ] when the cakes are in the oven
- [ ] after 10 minutes

29 How long do you cook the honey cakes for?

30 When does it say the cakes are ready to eat?

- [ ] when hot
- [ ] when mixed
- [ ] when melted
- [ ] when cool