

Bees and beekeeping

Bees are a very interesting insect. Let's try to fill next quiz about them. Then you can read short articles about some interesting topics of bees and beekeeping.

A short quiz

1. What is the name for a box where bees live?
 - a. bee home
 - b. bee cottage
 - c. bee house
 - d. bee hive
2. What is honey made of?
 - a. sugar
 - b. wood
 - c. flowers
 - d. sweet natural liquid
3. Do bees sleep during winter?
 - a. Yes, they sleep as bears do.
 - b. No, they live and eat honey to produce energy for heating.
 - c. Yes, they sleep and don't eat anything during winter.
4. I have got bees in several bee hives. I take honey from bees. Who am I?
 - a. A goalkeeper
 - b. A beekeeper
 - c. A bee owner
 - d. A bee fatter

Journey of honey

In this short article we will know how honey is produced.

Bees look for natural sweet liquid that they can eat. The best sweet liquid they can find is in flowers. Flowers contains a delicious meal for bees. It's name is nectar. The nectar contains several types of sugar (glucose, fructose and others), vitamins, water. A bee adds its own special secret to nectar. When honey is ready, bees give it to a cell of a wax's comb.

When honey is ready, bees shut a cell with honey by wax.

Honey of the nectar is lighter than honey of second sweet liquid - honeydew. Honeydew is produced by insect like aphids. Honeydew is taken by bees or ants. Honey that is made from honeydew is darker and it contains more minerals than nectar honey.

If a beekeeper know that bees have more combs with ripe honey, he takes these combs from a beehive. He use a special fork to open closed cells. Then he put his comb to an extractor. Then he switches the extractor on. Honey flows out of the extractor to a lot of types of containers.

Bees and sex

A bee colony has got one queen, drones and worker bees.

Only a queen can lay fertilized eggs. It is very interesting to know that a worker bee or a new queen can be born from a fertilized egg. A drone can be born only from an unfertilized egg.

When a new mother-bee is born, mostly the old one flies out with one half of the bees to look for their new home. We say that bees are swarming.

The young mother-bee has to be fertilized at first. She has to fly for a mating flight. There she meets several drones who mate her. After mating, drones die because they leave their genitalia in the mother-bee.

The mated mother-bee flies back to her beehive. After several days she begins to lay eggs. Mostly she lays fertilized eggs. When the bee colony needs drones, she lays unfertilized eggs in bigger cells.