



Bees at Work

by Claire Tan



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN



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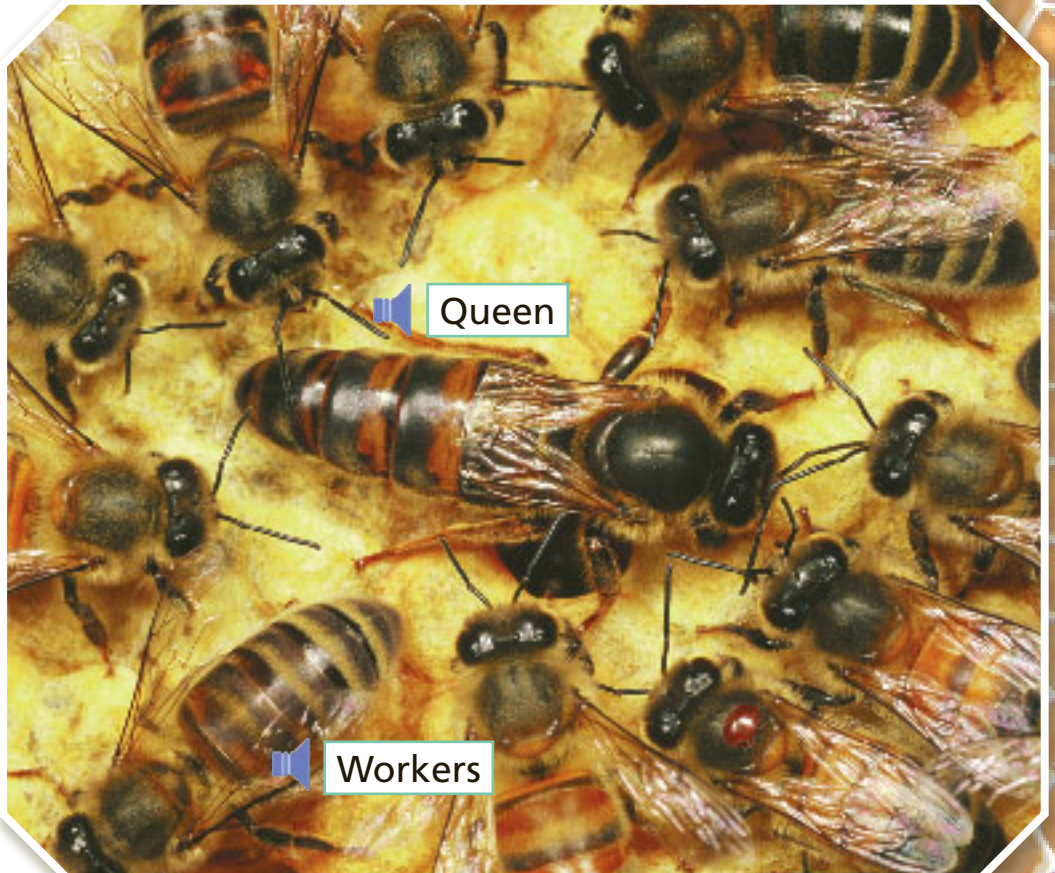
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Bees and Their Jobs

 Did you know that bees live together in a home called a hive? A hive of bees is like a family. Every bee has a special job to do. There are queen bees, worker bees, and drones, the male bees.



🔊 The queen is the biggest bee in the hive. She has the most important job, too. She lays eggs. A queen can lay 2,000 eggs in one day! New workers, drones, and queens will come from the eggs.





Worker bees

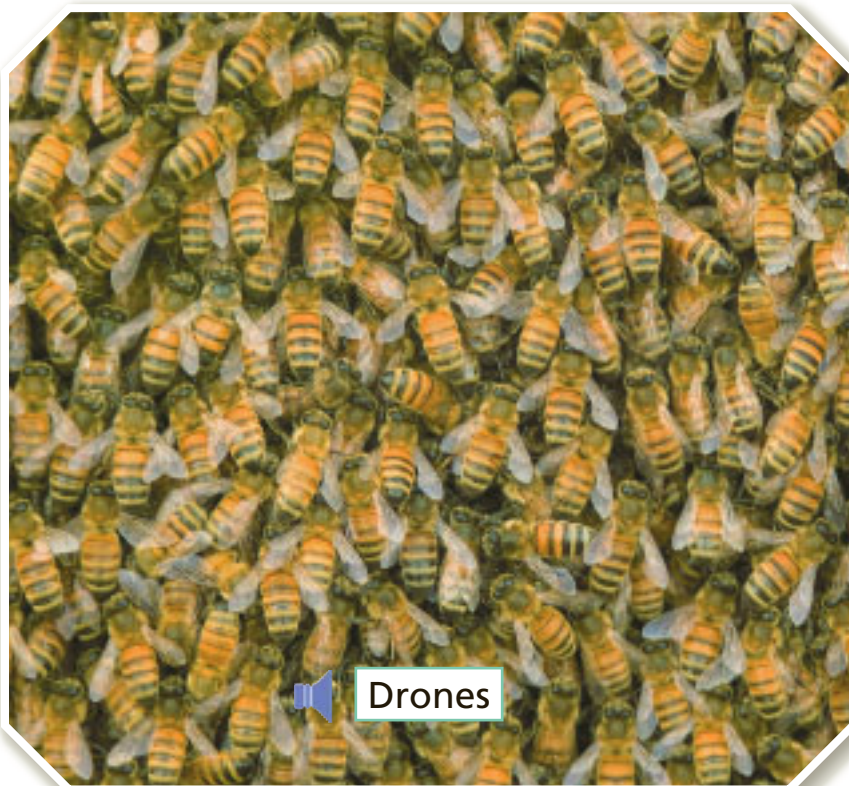
There are two kinds of worker bees. Some work inside the hive. These workers feed the other bees. They also take care of the eggs.

Other worker bees work outside the hive. They keep the hive safe from other animals. These workers also find food for the hive.


Bees eat nectar and pollen. Nectar is a sugary water that flowers make. Worker bees suck nectar from flowers with their long tongues. Pollen, a tiny powder inside the flowers, sticks to the workers' legs.




Flower




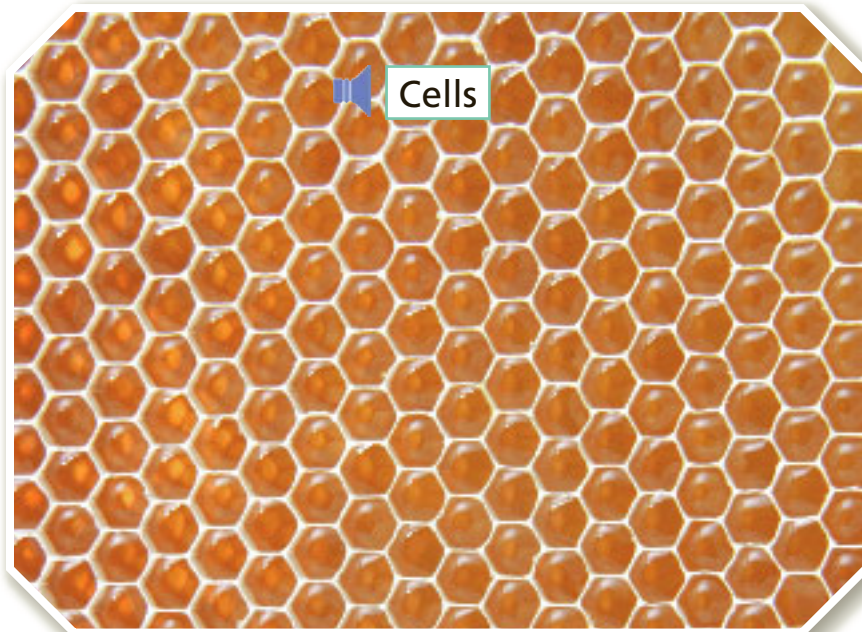
Drones

 The male bees, called drones, have only one job. They are the fathers of the queen's eggs. Worker bees feed the drones and clean them, too. In a hive there are usually thousands of worker bees. There are only a few hundred drones.

Hives

 Inside the hive there are many small spaces, called cells. Worker bees make the cells out of wax. Every cell is **shaped** the same. Every cell has six sides.

 Bees store food in some cells. Bees put eggs and young bees in other cells. The queen bee lives in the **deepest**, safest part of the hive. Here, she lays her eggs.



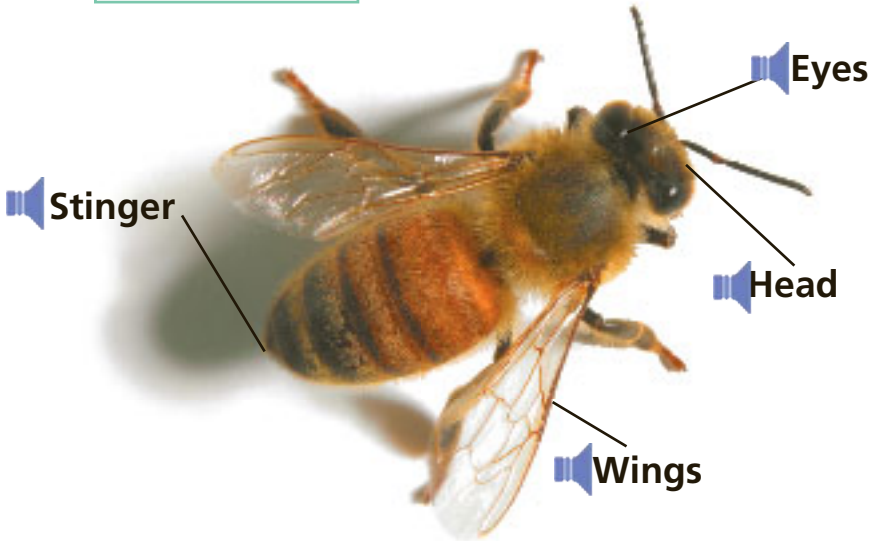
🔊 Sometimes there are too many bees in one hive. When this happens, a queen leaves to look for a new home. Some bees follow her. A few worker bees fly around. They look for a place to build a new hive. The other bees hang on tree branches and wait.



Why Bees Sting

Sometimes other animals attack the hive. Then the worker bees that keep the hive safe sting the animals. Bees sting with a stinger, something like a sharp needle on the backs of their bodies. Even birds, with their sharp **beaks**, cannot **break** into the hive.

Parts of a Bee



🔊 Someday you may walk down a winding path in a forest. You may pass a beautiful pond and see a hive of bees. Now you know that the bees are all doing their jobs. If you leave them alone, they will not sting you. Each bee is hard at work.



Responding

TARGET SKILL Text and Graphic

Features What do the photographs in this book show you about bees? Copy and complete the chart below.

Photos	Page	What They Show
Bee on flower	5	How bees get food The shape of cells
?	?	?
?	?	?



Write About It

Text to World What are the different kinds of bees? Write a few sentences that summarize the kinds of bees. Write only the most important ideas about each bee.



TARGET VOCABULARY

beaks

branches

break

deepest

hang

pond

shaped

winding



TARGET SKILL

Text and Graphic

Features Tell how words go with photos.



TARGET STRATEGY

Question

Ask questions about what you are reading.



GENRE Informational text gives facts about a topic.

Level: L

DRA: 24

Genre:

Informational

Strategy:

Question

Skill:

Text and Graphic Features

Word Count: 456

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