

Reading Comprehension: How Honeybees Help (Nonfiction) - Answer Key

3rd Grade - nonfiction comprehension and main idea | 20 minutes

Read the passage:

Honeybees are small insects that do a very big job. As a bee flies from flower to flower, it drinks a sweet liquid called nectar. Yellow dust called pollen sticks to the bee's body. When the bee lands on the next flower, some of that pollen rubs off. This is called pollination, and it helps the plant make seeds and fruit. Many of the fruits and vegetables we eat, like apples and pumpkins, grow because bees moved pollen for them. Bees also turn nectar into honey to feed their hive. Without bees, our world would have far less food and far fewer flowers.

Read the passage. Then answer each question in a complete sentence, using the text.

1. What does a bee drink from flowers?

Answer: Nectar.

2. What is the yellow dust that sticks to a bee called?

Answer: Pollen.

3. What is pollination?

Answer: When pollen moves from flower to flower, helping plants make seeds and fruit.

4. Name two foods that grow because of bees.

Answer: Apples and pumpkins.

5. What is the main idea of the passage?

Answer: Honeybees are important helpers because they pollinate plants and make honey. (Sample answer.)

Challenge

6. Why does the author say our world would have less food without bees? Use the text.

Answer: Because many fruits and vegetables only grow when bees move pollen between flowers.