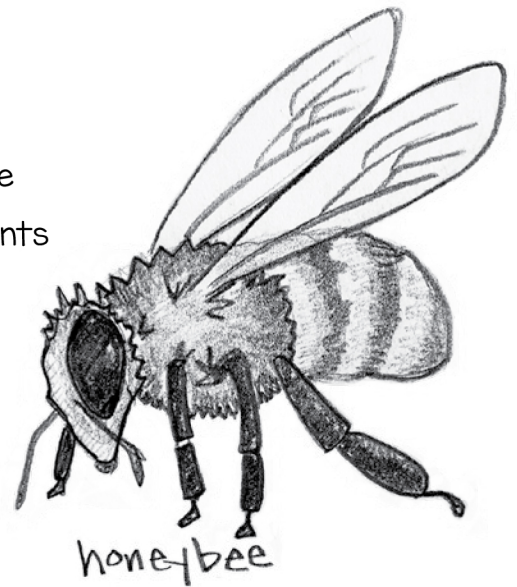


A Riddle

I am an animal who never stops working. My work helps produce the seeds and fruit that feed many creatures, yet I eat no plants or animals myself. I use what I collect from flowers to make a useful wax and a tasty food that never spoils. Who am I?

Did you guess a honeybee? Of the 20,000 different kinds of bees in the world, 7 kinds are honeybees.



Honeybees are valuable pollinators. They use the sweet nectar and powdery pollen in flowers to make bee's wax and honey for their colony. Bees need about 2 million healthy flowers to make one pound of honey. When one honeybee finds a patch of nectar-filled flowers, she tells the other honeybees by performing a dance that communicates the location of the flower patch. We call this the waggle dance. In winter, honeybees cluster together to stay warm and feed on the honey they have stored in their hive.

Sometimes people put chemicals called pesticides on plants to kill plant-harming insects. Unfortunately, these chemicals can be dangerous for bees and other pollinating animals. We can help honeybees by planting healthy pesticide-free flowers for them to use.

Bees are attracted to some flowers more than others. Honeybees tend to like small flowers that grow in bunches. Many herb plants produce the small abundant nectar-filled flowers that honeybees like. An added benefit of flowering herbs is that they are a healthy and flavorful addition to salads, soups, baked potatoes, pizza, and spaghetti sauce.

Herbs are, for the most part, easy to grow. They prefer full sun and are adaptable to a wide range of soil, as long as it's well drained. Flowering herbs will attract other pollinators too, like butterflies, hoverflies, and sometimes hummingbirds.