



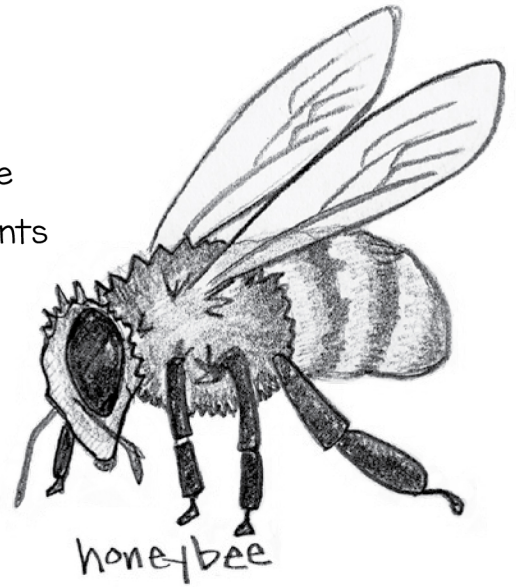
Who am I?

Can you use the clues
to solve the
science riddle?

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.

HERBS FOR HONEYBEES GROWING ACTIVITY

Materials:

scissors

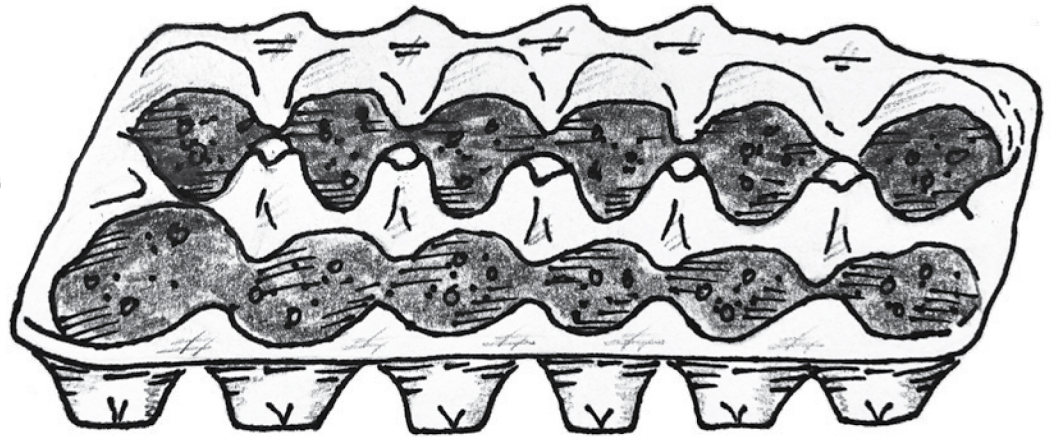
pressed paper egg carton

potting soil

spray bottle

plastic wrap

seed packet



Activity: Planting Herb Seeds in an Egg Carton

1. Cut the lid off of an egg carton and add potting soil to each cup.
2. Place 2-3 seeds in each soil-filled egg cup, following the directions on the seed packet and the Herb Growing Table.
3. Spray the soil with water until it's thoroughly damp. Cover the egg carton with a sheet of plastic wrap to keep the soil moist.
4. Place the carton on a tray in a warm place. The seeds should stay moist. Check them every day and spray the soil if it becomes dry to the touch. Be careful not to overwater, especially before germination.
5. After the seeds germinate and begin to grow into seedlings, remove the plastic wrap. Cut, or pull apart, each egg cup and plant the entire cup in a sunny garden spot. Don't worry about the pressed-paper egg cup. It will help keep the soil around the young roots moist and will eventually biodegrade.

Bee-Friendly Herb Growing Table



HERB	GERMINATION	PREFERRED GROWING CONDITIONS
BASIL (annual)	Plant seeds 1/4" deep, loosely with soil, and keep warm. Germination in 5-10 days.	Basil does best in full sun.
CHIVES (perennial)	Plant seeds on top of the soil and sprinkle with a thin layer of soil. Germination in 2 weeks..	Chives like full sun or partial shade.
CILANTRO (annual)	Plant seeds 1/4" deep and cover loosely with soil. Germination in 1-2 weeks.	Full sun in well-drained soil. Cilantro does not do well in pots due to its long roots.
DILL WEED (biennial)	Plant seeds 1/4" deep and cover loosely with soil. Germination in 1-2 weeks.	Dill weed grows best in full sun and rich soil. It grows fairly tall.
LAVENDER (perennial)	Press prepared seeds onto the surface of the soil. Germination in 2-3 weeks.	Prepare lavender seeds by wrapping in a damp paper towel, placing in a baggie and refrigerating for 3 weeks. Lavender grows best in sun.
OREGANO (perennial)	Press seeds onto the surface of the soil. Do not cover. Germination in about 1-2 weeks.	Plant in full sun in well-drained soil. Oregano is tolerant of poor soil.
PARSLEY (biennial)	Plant prepared seeds 1/2" deep in a warm area with indirect light. Germination in 3-4 weeks.	Prepare seeds by refrigerating 3 days, then soaking them overnight in room temp water. Grows best in full sun.
ROSEMARY (perennial)	Plant on top of the soil. Do not cover. Keep warm and do not over water. Germination in 2-3 weeks.	Rosemary grows best in full sun and is an evergreen.
SAGE (perennial)	Plant on top of the soil and place in a light warm area. Germination in 2-3 weeks.	Sage grows best in nitrogen-rich, well-drained soil. It is drought resistant.
THYME (perennial)	Plant seeds on top of soil. Germination in about 1-2 weeks.	Thyme grows best in full sun. It can also be grown easily from cuttings.

Never use pesticides in or around The Honeybee Garden.