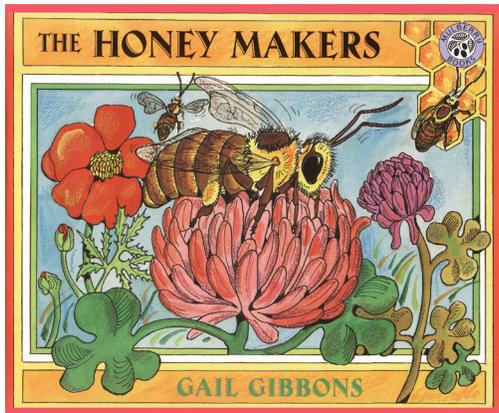


KIDS BOOK CLUB

READING TIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Jumpstart
Children first.

Reading with children can improve their language, literacy, and social-emotional skills, increasing their knowledge of the world around them. With the right book choices, reading can introduce children to healthy eating habits too!



THE HONEYMAKERS by Gail Gibbons

What It's All About

Did you know that there are three kinds of bees in a colony: drones, worker bees, and the queen bee? Did you know that a worker bee can change jobs up to three times in her two-month life span and the queen bee can live for three to five years? This book will give you a deep appreciation for the labor that goes into creating and collecting honey, as well as insight into the intricate colonies of bees!

Discover a World of Words

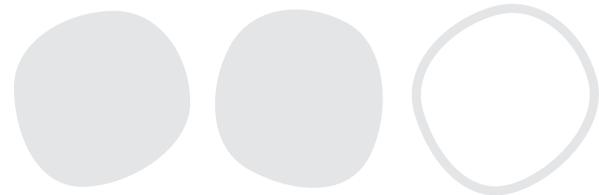
Throughout the story introduce new vocabulary words using gestures, tone of voice, pointing to illustrations, or providing brief explanations. This will be easy because so many words are called out with special diagrams!



Dig into the Story

Develop children's comprehension of the book's content by discussing higher-level information. Use prompts throughout the story, such as:

- What do you think bees look for when they decide to build a new home or beehive?
- How are the ways that nurse bees care for larva similar and different from the ways parents care for babies?
- What are the different strategies bees use to dry out nectar to make honey?



Make Connections Beyond the Book

After reading the story, make connections to an aspect of the child's life by:

- Visiting a working apiary to see a bee colony up close!
- Enjoying honey on a piece of toast, in yogurt, or in another healthy snack. Then recall the steps that were required to make the honey.

Jumpstart

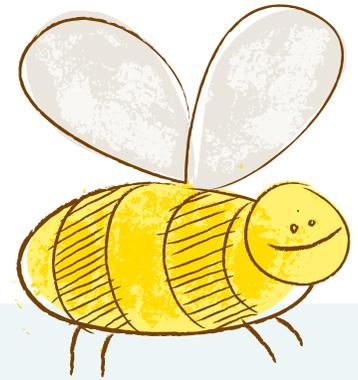
Jumpstart is a national early education organization working toward the day every child in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. Learn more at jstart.org.

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Some definitions taken from Biemiller, A. (2010). *Words worth teaching: Closing the vocabulary gap*.

Together Time Activity

SMELL LIKE A HONEYBEE

Did you know honeybees from the same colony recognize each other by scent? In this fun game (for one or more players), help the “honeybee colonies” find each other based on the way they smell.



Talking Points:

Why is it so important for bees from the same colony to be able to find each other? Bees are social insects and they live and function in highly organized groups. Each colony contains bees with different “jobs” including worker bees, drones, and a queen. They work cooperatively to build their nest, collect pollen, and keep each other alive. An individual bee cannot survive without the support of a colony!

Supplies:

- cotton swabs or cotton balls
- three jars (rinse and reuse any glass jars from the kitchen) or other containers
- three different clear food flavorings (peppermint, coconut, lemon, almond, vanilla, etc.)
- art supplies to decorate your jars like beehives (optional)

1 Decide how many cotton swabs/balls are needed for your group. If it’s just one child participating in the activity, start with at least three cotton swabs/balls. For small groups, give each child two or three swabs. To simplify the game for a very large group, provide one swab per child.

2 Set the jars on a table. Each one represents a hive. Label each one with the name of a scent. If desired, kids can decorate each jar like a beehive, using cut-up recycled cardboard tubes, construction paper, stickers, markers, paints, or other materials.

3 Before handing out the cotton swabs/balls, divide them into three groups (no need for the number in each group to be equal) and dip each group into a single food flavoring to give it a scent.

4 Randomly hand out the swabs/balls to the players (try not to let the cotton swabs/balls touch each other too much so the flavors don’t transfer and mingle). If only one player, simply arrange them on the table in random order.

5 Ask the child/children to reunite the bees from each “colony” by finding all the ones with a matching scent and taking them to the corresponding “hive.”

Tip: To add a movement component to this game, let the kids make buzzing sounds and move around the room like little bees as they make their way back to the hives.