



Most of you know honeybees make honey but do you know how they do it? Read on to find out.

## A HIVE OF ACTIVITY

It's the female worker bees who make the honey for the hive but how do they do it? Let's find out...

Worker bees leave their hive in search of flowers that are rich in nectar. Nectar is a sugary liquid which some flowers have deep inside. Bees love nectar and can find it by its smell and by special markings on the flower petals that point towards it. Worker bees have long, hollow tongues that they use to suck up nectar from flowers. The proper name for a bee's tongue is a proboscis.

When a worker bee finds nectar, she drinks it until her nectar stomach is full and then returns to the hive. Inside the hive, another worker bee sucks the nectar out of the first worker bee's stomach. This bee chews it until it is quite like honey – only very wet. The wet honey is then transferred to holes in the honeycomb. Other worker bees help to set the honey by flapping their wings very fast over it. When the honey has become less watery and has set, the bees seal it inside the honeycomb with a layer of beeswax.

1. A worker bee searching for pollen;
2. A worker bee using its proboscis to suck nectar from a flower;
3. A worker bee pouring watery honey into a honeycomb cell;



The honey is then ready to be eaten by the bees and fed to their larvae and pupae. It's also ready to be harvested by beekeepers who pour it out of the honeycomb and into jars for us to enjoy in our porridge. Beekeepers have to be careful not to take all of the honey from the hive or the bees would have nothing to eat to give them energy through the winter when they are not active.



4. A worker bee seals honeycomb with wax;
5. Honey is fed to the bee pupae until they're ready to hatch like this drone here!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Honeybees can fly up to 25km an hour?

Honeybees have 2 stomachs, one for food and one for nectar?

In its entire lifetime a honeybee will make just 1½ tsp of honey?

It takes around 40,000 honeybee miles to make a standard jar of honey?



Write the correct words in the empty boxes to complete this paragraph about how honeybees make honey. Use the leaflet to help you.

A female  leaves the hive to find  with  in.  
She sucks up the nectar with her  until she is full, then flies back to the  
. Another worker bee sucks the nectar from her stomach and   
it until it turns into very runny . The bee then puts the honey into a hole in the  
. Other worker bees flap their  over the honey help it  
. Finally, a bee  the hole with .

**chews - flowers - hive - honey - honeycomb - nectar**  
**proboscis - seals - set - wax - wings - worker bee**



A female **worker bee** leaves the hive to find **flowers** with **nectar** in. She sucks up the nectar with her **proboscis** until she is full, then flies back to the **hive**. Another worker bee sucks the nectar from her stomach and **chews** it until it turns into very runny **honey**. The bee then puts the honey into a hole in the **honeycomb**. Other worker bees flap their **wings** over the honey help it **set**. Finally, a bee **seals** the hole with **wax**.