

Bees and Honey Unit Study

Planning Resources

- <http://www.browningshoney.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/honey-files-a-bees-life.pdf>
- <https://www.crosswalk.com/print/1404167/>
- https://www.homeschoolshare.com/honey_bee_lapbook.php

Classroom Resources—Books

- How Do Bees Make Honey, by Anna Claybourne
- The Magic School Bus Inside a Beehive, by Johanna Cole
- The Life and Times of the Honeybee, by Charles Micucci
- The Honey Makers, by Gail Gibbons

Classroom Resources—Audiovisual

- City of Bees DVD
- City of Bees, a Children's Guide to Bees DVD
- Tales from the Hive DVD
- How It's Made series, Seasons 1-4: Honey chapter DVD

Teacher Preparation

According to the age of the students, and amount of time you wish to devote to this unit, choose resources above to fit your needs.

The complete curriculum from the National Honey Board (Resource 1 above.) is most highly recommended. It is very thorough, and comes complete with lesson plans and ready-to-go worksheets. This is geared for Grades 4-6. However, there are also a number of pictures that could be used as coloring sheets/ lap book extras for younger students.

The “Honey of a Unit Study” guide (Resource 2 above) is geared for younger students, grades PreK-4. It is a much simpler design; it includes a number of ideas for incorporating bee-themed activities across the curriculum—such as honey in History; the Science of Bees; Home Economics suggestions; Careers involving bees; Literature extras; and Writing Prompts.

The Honey Bee Lapbook from Homeschool Share (Resource 3 above) is an excellent ready-to-go resource. Simply printing the ready made worksheets, and helping your students assemble them into a file folder book can be an easy, low-prep way to learn about bees.

Bees and Honey Across the Curriculum Ideas

• History

How did ancient people gather honey from wild hives?

When did people start keeping bees in hives?

What did early Americans use honey for?

- **Science**

Bees as insects.

Bees have an intricate communication system by their forms of dance.

Bees see with compound eyes.

Many people are allergic to bee stings. First aid for stings.

Bees follow a definite hierarchy inside the beehive.

Bees as pollinators are necessary for our food supply.

Bees pollinate 80% of the world's plants, including 90 different food crops.

The honeybee is responsible for \$15 billion in U.S. agricultural crops each year.

Bee populations are in a rapid decline. They have decreased in number by 40% in the last year. The cause of their decline is still under speculation.

- **Home Economics**

Uses for honey—culinary, medicinally.

Cooking with honey.

Crafts regarding bees and honey.

- **Literature/Composition**

There are hundreds of books available, both fiction and non-fiction, pertaining to bees and honey.

Poetry, creative writing pertaining to bees.