



4 APIARY

Bees are great communicators.

3RD–5TH GRADE

Learn about the ways bees share information about the best food sources.

1. GET STARTED

Take a moment to quietly observe the apiary. What do you notice?

There are bees flying in and out of the 7 boxes that make up the apiary. There are hives inside those boxes where the bees live.

It may look like they are just flying around but there are as many bees in these hives as in a small city and they need to be well-organized! In fact, there are 50,000 bees in each hive so we have a total of 350,000 bees.

2. DIVE IN

How do the bees know where to go to find the freshest and tastiest nectar?

Just like humans, bees communicate with one another to share information about where to find flowers or the best food in the area. They often bring back a taste to encourage other bees to go out and find the flower.

How would you communicate if you couldn't use words?

You might use gestures or movements, and that is what bees do.



Bees have dances that include flying around an area where there is good nectar and wagging their tails in the direction of abundant flowers.

Find a partner and try communicating with them how to find the best nectar in the neighborhood. You can run in a circle or waggle your tail.

All the bees in the hive have one of three jobs.

- ▶ First, there is the Queen. She definitely lives like a queen. Her only job is to lay eggs. She is the mother of all worker bees. There is only one queen in each colony.
- ▶ The Drone is the male honey bee. His job is to mate with the queen. There are 100s of drones in each colony. They leave the hive daily and find a queen to mate with.
- ▶ Most of the bees in the hive are worker bees. The worker bees are all female and they have lots of different jobs which change as they get older, from cleaning the cells, to making wax, to caring for the Queen to leaving the hive to search for nectar. Worker bees are the ones you see buzzing from flower to flower collecting nectar and, at the same time, pollinating flowers.

LEARN MORE

Watch the FoodPrints TV video on [Pollinators at Work](#) to learn more about the important role bees play.

Check out FoodPrints' [Strawberry-Mint Lemonade](#) and [Summer-Ripe Greek Salad](#) recipes to taste some of the produce bees help us grow!

FIELD TRIP MAP

parking lot



1 HUMAN SUNDIAL

picnic tables



2 GREENHOUSES



3 RAISED BEDS



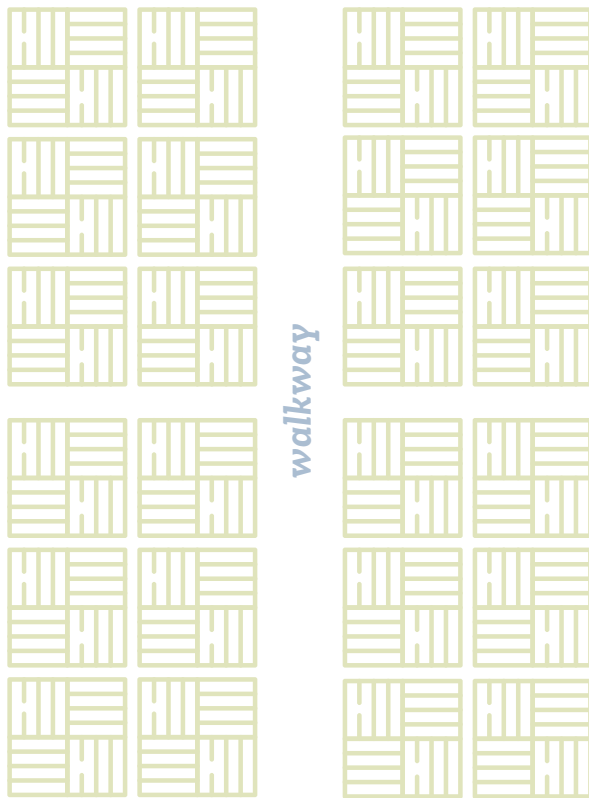
4 "APIARY" BEE HIVES



5 THREE TIER COMPOST SYSTEM



6 BLUEBIRD TRAIL STARTING POINT



7 BEE HOTEL



10 EDIBLE FLOWERS



9 SENSORY FOOTPATH



8 POLLINATOR HABITAT