



7 BEE HOTEL

Bee hotels help support native pollinators.

3RD–5TH GRADE

Learn how these hotels help support threatened native pollinators.

1. GET STARTED

Earlier we looked at the apiary where bees live in hives. This bee hotel is another place where bees live.

How do you think they are different?

- ▶ These hotels are designed for solitary bees, such as mason bees, orchard bees, and leaf cutter bees, rather than honey bees that live in hives.
- ▶ Each of the tunnels replicates the hollow plant stems or wood that bees find in their natural habitat.
- ▶ By building bee hotels, we encourage these pollinators to visit our farm and offer them places to nest in areas where their natural habitat has been developed.
- ▶ These bees don't sting—they don't need to since they are not protecting a hive.

2. DIVE IN

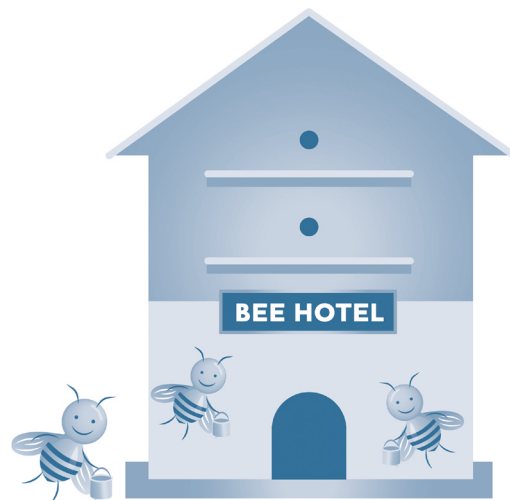
Look closely at the structure of the bee hotel which is constructed with a series of tubes or tunnels.

- ▶ A solitary bee that 'checks' into the hotel will lay her egg in the tunnel on top of the pollen and nectar she has collected, and then seal it off with mud or leaves.
- ▶ She will then add more eggs until the tube is full.
- ▶ When you see that the entrance is blocked off with mud or leaves, you know there are eggs inside.
- ▶ When the eggs hatch, they eat away at the pollen and nectar before emerging from the nest.

- ▶ Without touching the nest, count the number of cells that are capped in the tunnel.
- ▶ Bee hotels can come in different sizes and shapes and house different numbers of bees and their nests. Use the page in your resource book to draw a hotel that you think would attract native bees.

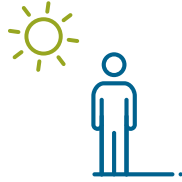
3. LEARN MORE

Bees are responsible for pollinating most of the fruits, vegetables, seeds and nuts that we eat, so it is important to do what you can to save them. You can plant a garden with bee friendly plants so they can find nutritious food sources. You can also build a home like this one for native bees. Watch the FoodPrints TV video on [Pollinators at Work](#) to learn more about the important role bees play.



FIELD TRIP MAP

parking lot



1 HUMAN SUNDIAL

picnic tables



2 GREENHOUSES



3 RAISED BEDS



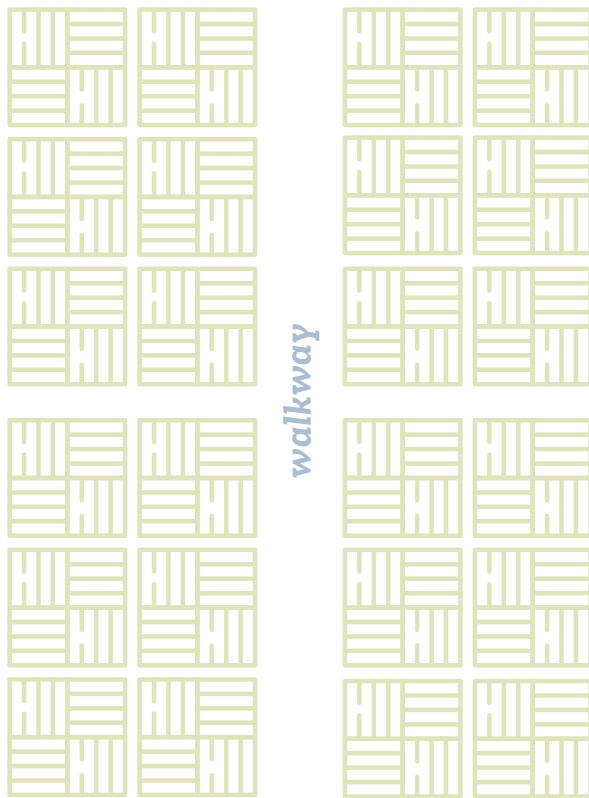
4 "APIARY" BEE HIVES



5 THREE TIER COMPOST SYSTEM



6 BLUEBIRD TRAIL STARTING POINT



7 BEE HOTEL



10 EDIBLE FLOWERS



9 SENSORY FOOTPATH



8 POLLINATOR HABITAT