



wild dog

**Wild Dog Books
Teachers' Notes**

Honey Bees CloseUp

Synopsis

Honey Bees are one of the most important insects on the planet. They not only make honey and beeswax but also play a vital role in fertilizing the crops where our food is grown. Bees collect nectar from flowers with which they make honey. At the same time bees collect pollen, which is transported by the bees to other flowers and used to fertilize these flowers. Fruit and other foods grow from these fertilized flowers. Bees live in colonies and colonies live in hives. Different sorts of bees within the hive have different sorts of jobs to do. People who keep bees are called beekeepers and they keep their bees in artificial hives. A collection of artificial hives is called an apiary. The bees are kept for their honey and to fertilize food crops. Bees are now disappearing and no one is sure why.

Writing style

Honey Bees Close Up has been designed with the needs of very early readers and reluctant readers in mind. Text is succinct and simple, with no more than a few sentences on a page. The large format images relate directly to the text, so young readers have multiple entry points to engaging with the information. There is a brief glossary in the back of the book, which will aid young readers in developing the tools of research and analysis.

Photographic style

The *CloseUp* series uses photographs that bring the viewer close to the subject that is being discussed. These photographs also have the advantage that the image is static, giving the reader the opportunity to explore the image and look at the subject matter and its features in detail. The photographs are also strongly composed and clearly printed with bright strong colours to increase the appeal to visual readers. Readers can explore how photographs are used to convey messages. Where possible the images reflect the text, reinforcing the words.

Study notes

Themes:

- Descriptive words
- Breeding
- Animals and their relatives
- Animals and their physiology – different parts
- Threats to our ecosystem
- Working relationship between animals and humans
- Reliance on humans

Curriculum link: Literacy

Before reading *Honey Bees CloseUp*:

- Brainstorm what students know about bees.

- What is their first response when they look at the cover of the book?
- Are they afraid of being bitten by a bee?
- Ask the students if anyone has seen a bee hive? What can they recall about the behaviour of bees at a hive?
- Ask if the students like honey? And if they knew that bees made it?
- What do bees use honey for?

While reading *Honey Bees CloseUp*:

- Ask the students to take turns reading a paragraph aloud to the rest of the class. Where appropriate, ask the students what they think certain words may mean.
- Ask the students to keep a table list of the features that help Honey Bees live in their environment. In one column put the feature and in the second column write how the feature helps the bees.

After reading *Honey Bees CloseUp*:

- Ask the students to reflect on the words they would use to describe bees and the words that have been used in the book. Ask them to draw up a list of words that can be used to describe Honey Bees.

Curriculum Theme: Critical and Creative Thinking

After reading *Honey Bees CloseUp* ask the students the following questions:

- What sort of an animal is a bee?
- What do bees do?
- What is nectar and where can it be found?
- What is pollen and where can it be found?
- Why do people keep bees? How useful are bees to us as people?
- What would happen if all the bees disappeared?

Curriculum link: ICT Capability

After reading *Honey Bees CloseUp*:

- Organise the class into small groups. Ask each group to research online and answer one or several of the following questions: Where are honey bees found around the world? What sort of environment do they prefer? What are some of the explanations for why they are disappearing? (For example: Attacks by mites? Herbicides? Insecticides? Colonies being moved around too often by beekeepers?). And where are the bees disappearing? Lack of food/flowers? Lack of habitat/suitable places for hives?) Ask them to write down their findings.
- Ask the children to look for and print images relating to their chosen question.
- Ask each group to create a poster collage about why we should save the bees.

Curriculum Theme: Personal and Social Capability

After reading *Honey Bees CloseUp*:

- Organise the class into three groups. In one group, ask the students to work as a team to construct a word finder puzzle. Ask each student to suggest an appropriate word about Honey Bees using words they have learned from the book

e.g. worker, proboscis, nectar and pollen etc. Once completed, print copies for the other groups to complete.

- In the second group, students should work as a team to create a trivia bingo game. Ask each student to suggest a fact they found surprising or interesting. Combine these facts into a game for the whole class.
- In the third group, students should work as a team to develop a crossword puzzle about bees. Use the information featured in the book as clues for appropriate words e.g. apiary, beekeeper, crop etc.

Find out more

- *The Flight of the Honey Bee* (2013 book by Raymond Huber; Walker Books)
- *More Than Honey* (2012 film directed by Marcus Imhoof)
- Wikipedia entry: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honey_bee
- National Geographic
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com.au/animals/bugs/honeybee/>
- <http://www.backyardbeekeepers.com/facts.html>
- <http://honeybee.org.au/>

Marketing and promotion

Honey Bees CloseUp is part of the *CloseUp* series, which includes *Snakes CloseUp*, *Mini-Beasts CloseUp*, *Crocs CloseUp*, *Spiders CloseUp*, *Wolves CloseUp*, *Human Body CloseUp*, *Elephants CloseUp* and *Sharks CloseUp*. The most recent additions to the series are *Butterflies CloseUp*, *Senses CloseUp* and *Horses CloseUp*. Future titles in the series are planned.