

FAST FACTS

- Certain species of bees *die* after stinging. That is because their stingers are attached to their abdomen, and have little barbs or hooks on them. When the bee tries to fly away after stinging something, part of the abdomen is ripped away and it dies.
- Bees make honey to feed their young and so they have something to eat during the winter.
- Beekeepers use smoke to calm bees when they are collecting honey or relocating a hive.

General Information

Honeybees live in large “families” and are found all over the world. The honeybee is the only social insect whose colony can survive many years. That is because they huddle together and eat honey to keep themselves alive during the winter months.

Honeybees **pollinate** more than 100 crops in the U.S. Their wings flap 11,000 times per minute, which is why it sounds like they are “buzzing”. Honeybees can only sting once, because their stingers are **barbed** and tear off when they try to get away.

Size: 1/2”	Common Name: Honeybee
Shape: Oval	Kingdom: Animalia
Color: Golden-yellow with brown bands	Phylum: Arthropoda
Legs: 6	Class: Insecta
Wings: Yes	Order: Hymenoptera
Antenna: Yes	Family: Apidae
	Genus Species: Apis

Diet

Honeybees produce honey from pollen and nectar of the plants they **pollinate**. They store the honey in honeycombs in their nests, which they use to feed their young in colder months.

Habitat

Honeybee nests vary in size. They typically build their nests in tree crevices, but will occasionally build nests in attics or chimneys.

Impact

Honeybees do sting, but they only sting once. The sting can be extremely painful if the stinger is not immediately removed from the skin. Persons allergic to insect stings will have a more severe reaction.

Prevention

*Removal of a honeybee nest and the honey can be very messy.

*Because honeybee colonies can be extremely large, only a pest management professional or experienced beekeeper can safely remove a honeybee nest.

To learn more about this and other bees, visit <http://www.pestworldforkids.org/bees.html>