

LESSON No. 6



HONEY BANK



Have you seen butterflies and honeybees sitting on the flowers? What do you see when they sit on flowers?

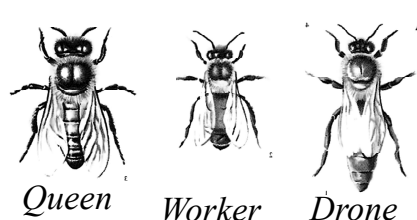
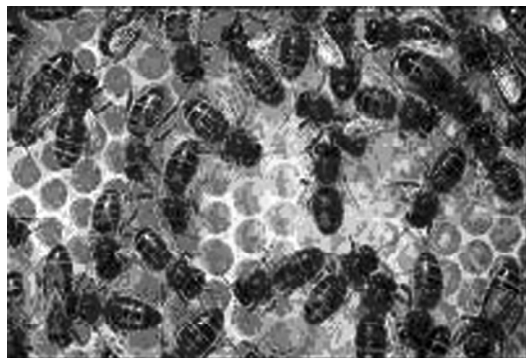
Butterflies and honeybees are attracted to flowers.

The flowers are bright coloured and beautiful. Butterflies and honey bees collect something from flowers. In turn, they help the flower in pollination.

In the flowers a sweet liquid called nectar is produced. When bees and butterflies sit on a flower, they insert their long tube like tongue into the flower and drink the sweet nectar. When they move on to another flower, some of the pollens from the first flower is transferred on the second flower. This process of transfer of pollen from one flower to another is called pollination. As a result of pollination fruits and seeds are formed. New plants grow from these seeds. Honeybees and butterflies cannot live without nectar.

Life of bees in a Beehive

Bees are social by nature and live in colonies. Why do we say bees are social animals?



The domestic honeybees also live in colonies. They live in beehives. Nearly 50,000 to 80,000 bees live together in a hive. They are of three types- the queen bee, the worker bees and the drones. Each type of bees has a specific job. They exhibit division of labour like human beings. The workers keep the beehives clean, tend the young and old, they look for nectar and pollen. The queen bees lay eggs. The drones help in reproduction.

Bee produces a chemical known as pheromones which help them to communicate with each other. Division of labour is very essential for harmony when we live in groups.

Many animals eat honey. We human also get honey from beehives. For collection of honey from the beehive, the honeybees are first driven out from the beehives with the help of smoke from a fire.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CLASS- IV

Apiculture

Man rear honeybees economically.

What do you call the activity of rearing bees economically?

The activity of rearing bees for the production of honey is called beekeeping or **apiculture**. The place where bees are kept for this purpose is called an apiary.

An apiary should be located near a place where the bees can find large number of flowers and nectar. In an apiary bees are kept in beehive boxes. These are tightly closed boxes with a small entrance for bees.



To get honey from the beehive boxes, the bees are first driven out by a device called smoker. The frames are taken out and honey is extracted from it by a machine called **Honey Extractor**. Honey varies in taste and colour depending on the flower from which nectar is gathered.

Activity

Visit to a nearby garden or school garden with your friends and observe the animals (insects) sitting on the flowers. Try to find out at least three different types. Draw their picture and name them.