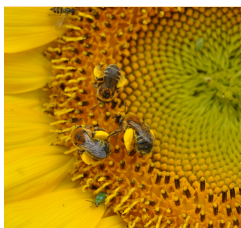




HONEYBEE



Common Honeybee scientific name: *Apis mellifera*

Description: Honeybees are predominately dark brown with a golden fuzz that covers their body. Their heads have 2 antennae and 5 eyes (2 large compound eyes and 3 "simple" eyes). Their thorax consists of 4 wings (2 larger forewings and 2 smaller hind wings) and 6 legs, with pollen baskets on their hind (back) legs. Their abdomen has 6 striped segments and only females have stingers.

FUN FACTS



Honeybees live in "hives" or colonies of bees with three types of members.



Queen: There is only one per hive and she is the largest of them all. She lays up to 2,500 eggs a day and produces chemicals that guide the behavior of the rest of the colony.



Workers: The most hard-working bees are the smallest and also all female. The worker bees forage for food (pollen and nectar), produce wax to build honeycombs, make honey, maintain and protect the hive, feed young bee larvae, and take care of the queen and drones. If a worker bee stings you, she will die.



Drones: 5% of the colony are male drones, whose only purpose is to mate with the queen. Drones do not have any stingers.



While honeybees are now important pollinators in the U.S., they are not native and were introduced by Europeans.



Honeybees pollinate around 80% of agricultural crops grown in the U.S., making them a critical part of our food system and ecosystem.



FAVORITE COLORS & PLANTS

Honeybees prefer to pollinate any plant that is the most visible to them. Unlike humans, honeybees can see on the ultraviolet spectrum. They love most yellow, orange, blue, violet, and purple flowers. However, they do not like red as it appears "black," or the absence of color.

HABITAT

Honeybees can thrive wherever flowering plants are abundant, whether it is in woodlands, meadows, or a garden. They like to build their nests (the beehive) in cavities, especially hollow trees.



HELP HONEYBEES THRIVE



- Cultivate a pollinator garden and fill it with nectar-rich plants of their favorite colors.
- Avoid the use of pesticides (even organic ones) as chemicals pose a threat to sensitive bee populations.
- Contact your local beekeeping club or state apiarist about starting your own hive.



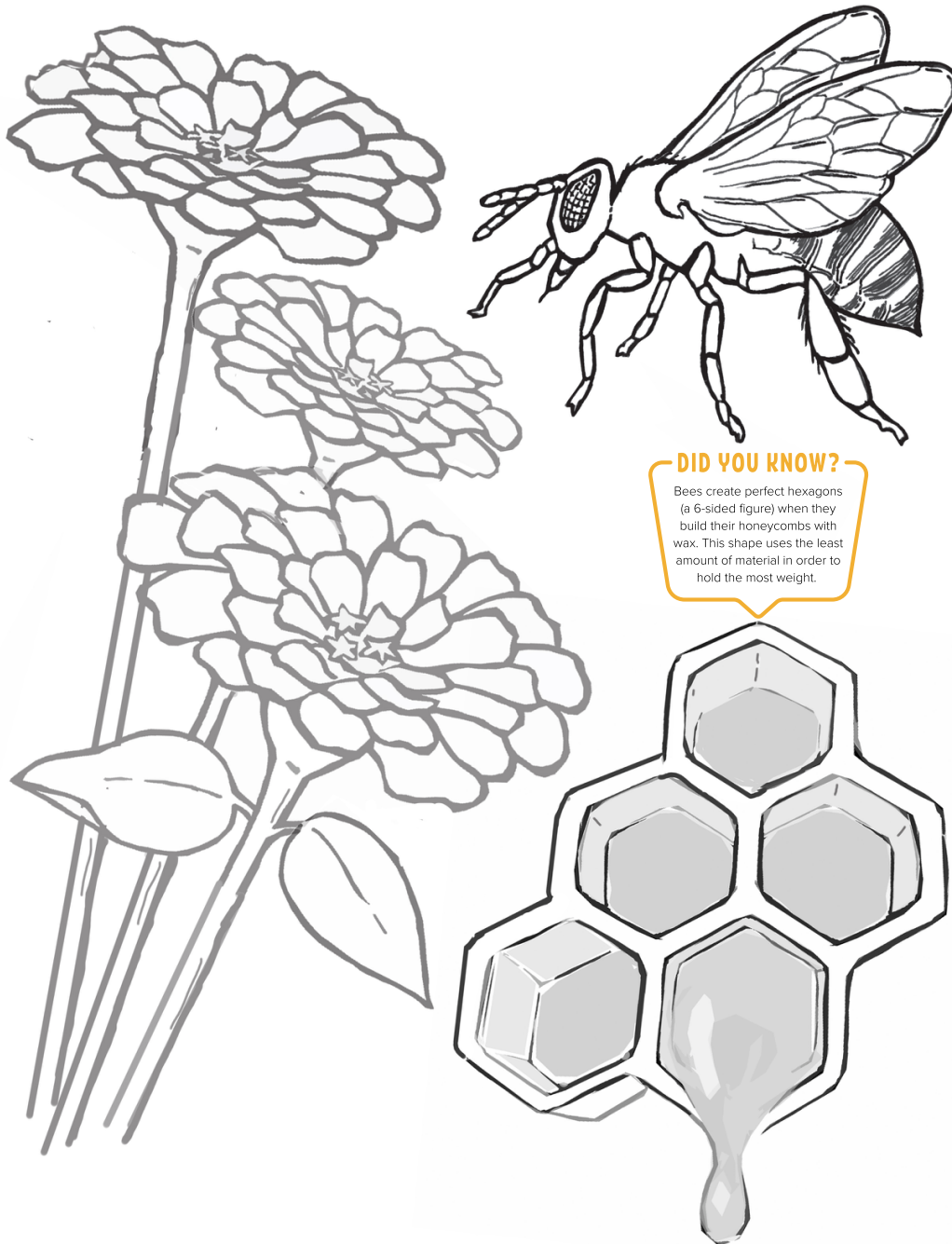
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color perception chart

Color the zinnia flowers as they would be perceived by bees. For example, white-colored flowers seen with human eyes would appear blue-green by bees. "Ultraviolet" is perceived as a bright whiteish-blue or bright, "beyond violet."

HUMAN	RED	ORANGE	YELLOW	GREEN	BLUE	VIOLET	PURPLE	WHITE	BLACK
honeybee 	black	dark yellow - green	yellow-green	green	blue + ultraviolet blue	blue + ultraviolet	blue	blue-green	black



DID YOU KNOW?

Bees create perfect hexagons (a 6-sided figure) when they build their honeycombs with wax. This shape uses the least amount of material in order to hold the most weight.

