

Topic: What do you know about honey bees ?

Objectives:

Students will:

- learn about bees life
- learn new words and phrases about bee life and revise the ones they already know
- practise their reading comprehension skills
- feel motivated

Materials:

- access to the internet and the following websites:

http://www.open.edu/openlearnworks/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=52680&extra=thumbnail_idm6238352

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjeGBraxPWs>

<http://angielskipodrodze.pl/2016/01/01/what-do-you-know-about-bees/>

Warm-up

On the board write the following words: **beehive, honey, sweet, healthy, sting, flowers** and encourage your students to try to predict the topic.

Once the students guess the topic, write it down on the board.

Ex. 1 Honey bee body parts

a) Ask the students to look at the poster:

http://www.open.edu/openlearnworks/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=52680&extra=thumbnail_idm6238352 and let them find the answer to the following question:

Which animal group do honey bees belong to? (insects)

b) Students should look at the picture of a honey bee body parts and analyse the main parts of the body. Ask them the following questions:

1. What is the largest part of the bee called? (abdomen)
2. Where do the legs attach? (thorax)
3. Where do the wings attach? (thorax)
4. Which part has got eyes? (head)

You can check the answers by encouraging your students to do the same activity online:

<http://angielskipodrodze.pl/2016/01/01/what-do-you-know-about-bees/> so that all the students could check their answers quickly.

c) Let the students work in pairs. Ask them to name the bee body parts presented and numbered in the picture. Then tell them to read the definitions and match them with the correct body parts of the bee.

Nr 1 – Compound eyes (They can differentiate colours except red and black.)

Nr 2 – Tongue (It collects nectar and passes it on to the stomach.)

Nr 3 – Wings (They enable the bee to fly distances up to eight miles.)

Nr 4 – Pollen baskets (They are hairy parts of the third pair of legs. They collect pollen.)

Nr 5 – Sting (It is a bee's weapon. It and other parts of internal organs are pulled out of the bee causing its death.)

Ex. 2 Honey bees as excellent pollinators and honey makers

Tell students to read all the questions, stand up, walk around classroom, read all the texts put on the wall and find the answers in the texts. While doing this activity, you can play some relaxation music (preferably with some bee sounds), e.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hjeGBraxPWs>

Students should read the following text which is a part of 'Designs of Nature' book by Dorine Van Den Beukel. It is a good idea to put the paragraphs on the walls at random and in different parts of the classroom.

Honeybees are amazing insects. Imagine making 60,000 flights to gather nectar for one teaspoon of honey constructing such perfectly designed cells that architects the world over marvel at their strength and their economy.

Three different types of bees perform all the jobs within a hive: the queen, female workers, and male drones.

The queen is a special female from early in her life. Having been reared in an enlarged cell and a special diet, she grows to be much larger than the workers and longer and slimmer than the drones.

Drones lack many of the specialized structures present in worker bees. They cannot even feed themselves and must be fed by worker bees. Male bees serve only one function: to fertilize a queen.

Worker bees live an average of four to six weeks, though the last brood of the summer lives through the winter. The life of a worker changes with age. She is involved in hive duties for the first three weeks of her adult life: cleaning, producing royal jelly, feeding the larvae, repairing the hive, packing pollen and honey in cells, and guarding the entrance of the hive. Then she starts taking short trips out of the hive, and spends her final weeks as a field bee.

Questions for the students:

1. How many times must a bee fly to gather nectar for one teaspoon of honey? (60,000)
2. What are the three types of bees which live in a hive? (the queen, female workers, male drones)
3. How is the queen different from other bees? (She is larger than the workers and longer and slimmer than the drones.)

4. *Who feeds the drones? (the female workers)*
5. *What function do the drones serve? (They fertilize the queen.)*
6. *How long do worker bees live? (They live from 4 to 6 weeks.)*
7. *What duties is a female worker involved in? Name at least four. (Cleaning, producing royal jelly, feeding the larvae, repairing the hive,)*

It is a good idea to set the time limit for this activity. When the time is over, ask the students to go back to their seats. Check the answers with the whole class by asking individual students to read the answers.

Homework

Hand out the other worksheets with a crossword. Students are supposed to do the crossword about honey bees life. Encourage your students to do both the paper crossword and the online crossword which can be found at:

<http://angielskipodrodze.pl/2016/01/01/what-do-you-know-about-bees/>