

A Bee's Guide



by Faith Paahi and Matilda Stitt,
Forbes Public School



Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by PeekDesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

www.envirostories.com.au

Forbes Shire Council

Forbes is located on the Lachlan River in Central West NSW in Wiradjuri country. With European occupation Forbes became famous for its rich bushranging history and for its historic buildings dating back to the Forbes gold rushes.

The Forbes Shire is a safe, connected and welcoming rural community where residents and visitors enjoy a clean, safe environment enhanced by our unique heritage and country lifestyle.

www.forbes.nsw.gov.au

A Bee's Guide

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School: Forbes Public School

The Amazing Forbes Enviro-Stories program involves Forbes Shire Council working with local schools and young people to celebrate how amazing the area is and how important it is to work together to protect their home for future generations.

Students have the opportunity to become published authors by writing and illustrating a short story, focusing on different aspects and issues within their community. Stories that are published will become resources to teach others about Forbes.

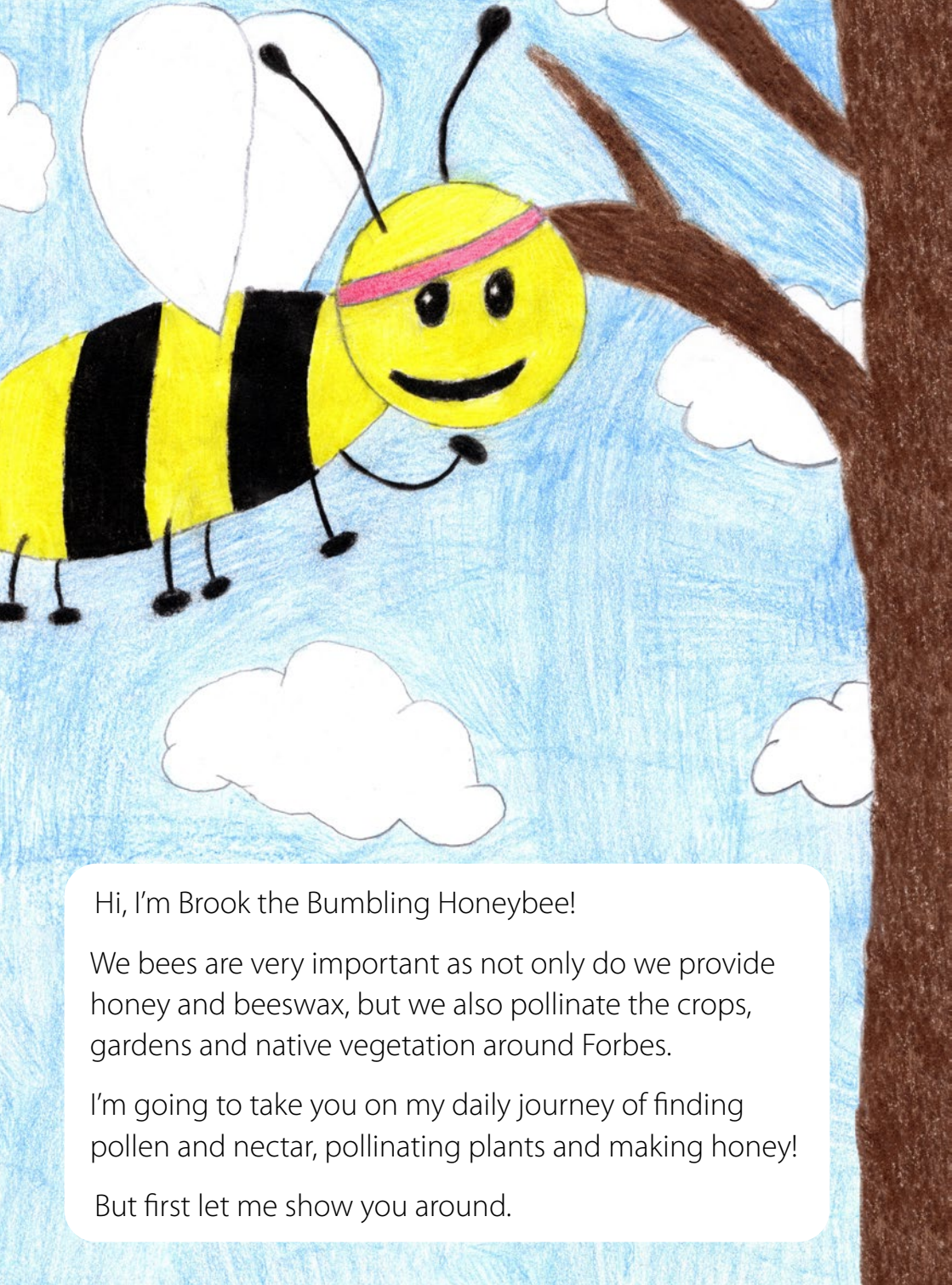
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Enviro-Stories is a Peekdesigns initiative, www.peekdesigns.com.au.

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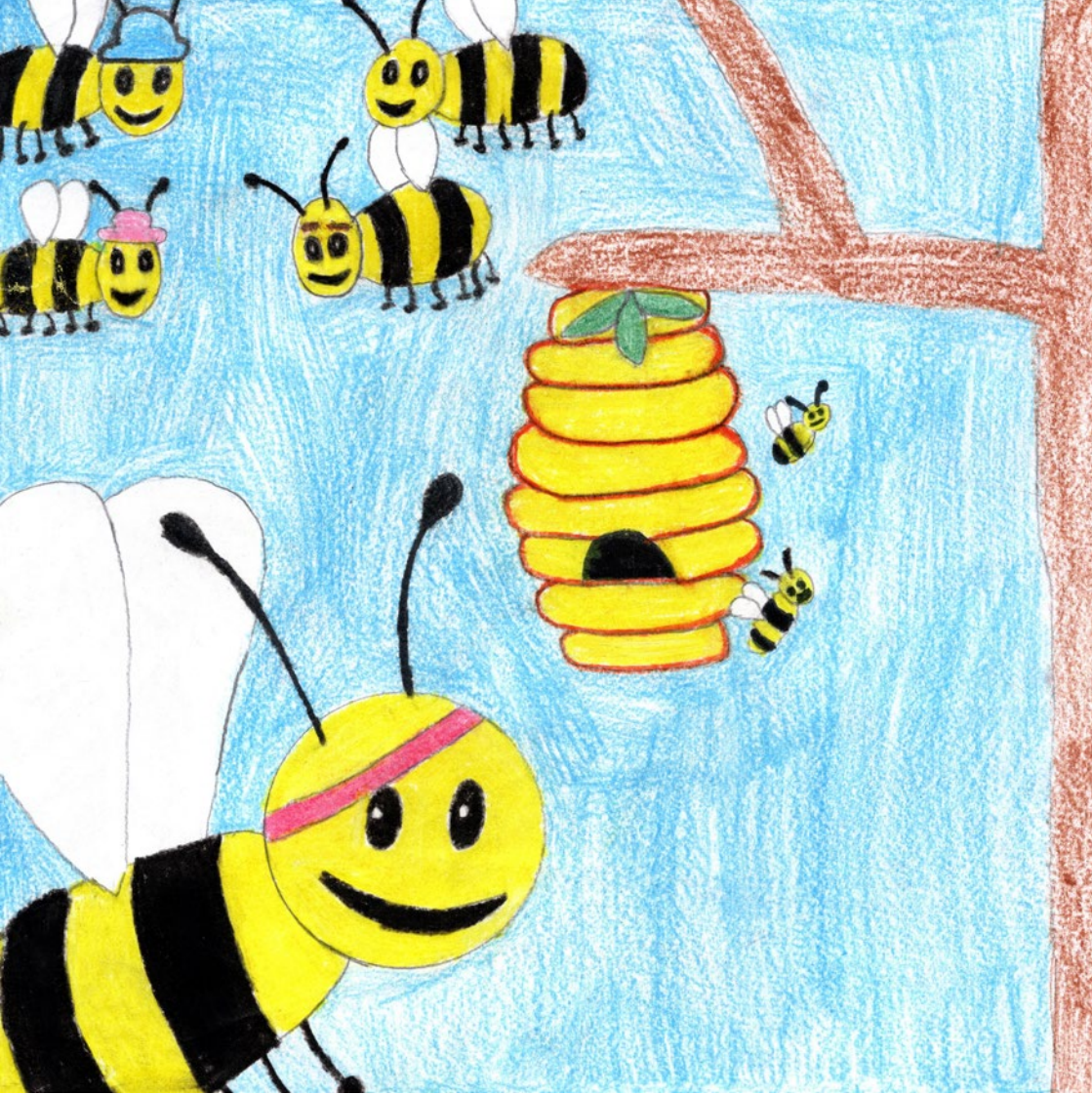


Hi, I'm Brook the Bumbling Honeybee!

We bees are very important as not only do we provide honey and beeswax, but we also pollinate the crops, gardens and native vegetation around Forbes.

I'm going to take you on my daily journey of finding pollen and nectar, pollinating plants and making honey!

But first let me show you around.



This is my hive where I live. All of the bees here have particular jobs that help keep the colony strong.

Let me introduce you to some of my family. This is my brother Blake, my sister Betty, my dad Barry and the most important bee in our hive, my mum, Queen Beth.



Each day, my journey starts by travelling out to find nectar and pollen for the hive.

This time of year, I know where there are some nice fresh canola flowers, so I like to go there.

I travel past the endless growing green grass and then the tall gum trees, which means we are nearly there.



Passing the AMAZING sign is breathtaking because it is so big compared to us bees. I am also a very proud bee, and I agree that this area is a pretty amazing place to live.

Smelling the sweet nectar of the canola wafting on the breeze, means we must be very close now.

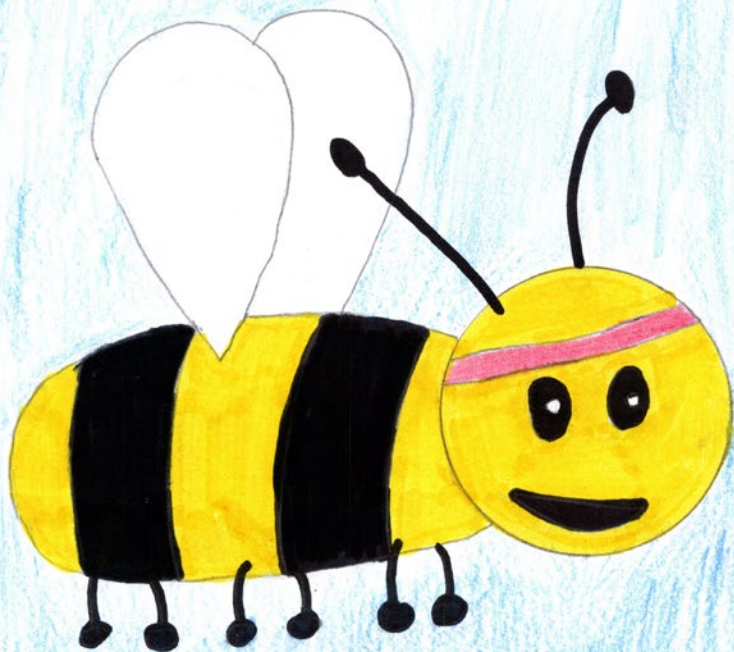
I finally found some fresh gold! Fields of bright yellow flowers as far as the eye can see. This is paradise for a bee like me!

Now, we need to get the pollen and nectar. As I fly from plant to plant collecting the golden delights, I am also doing the amazing job of fertilizing the flowers.

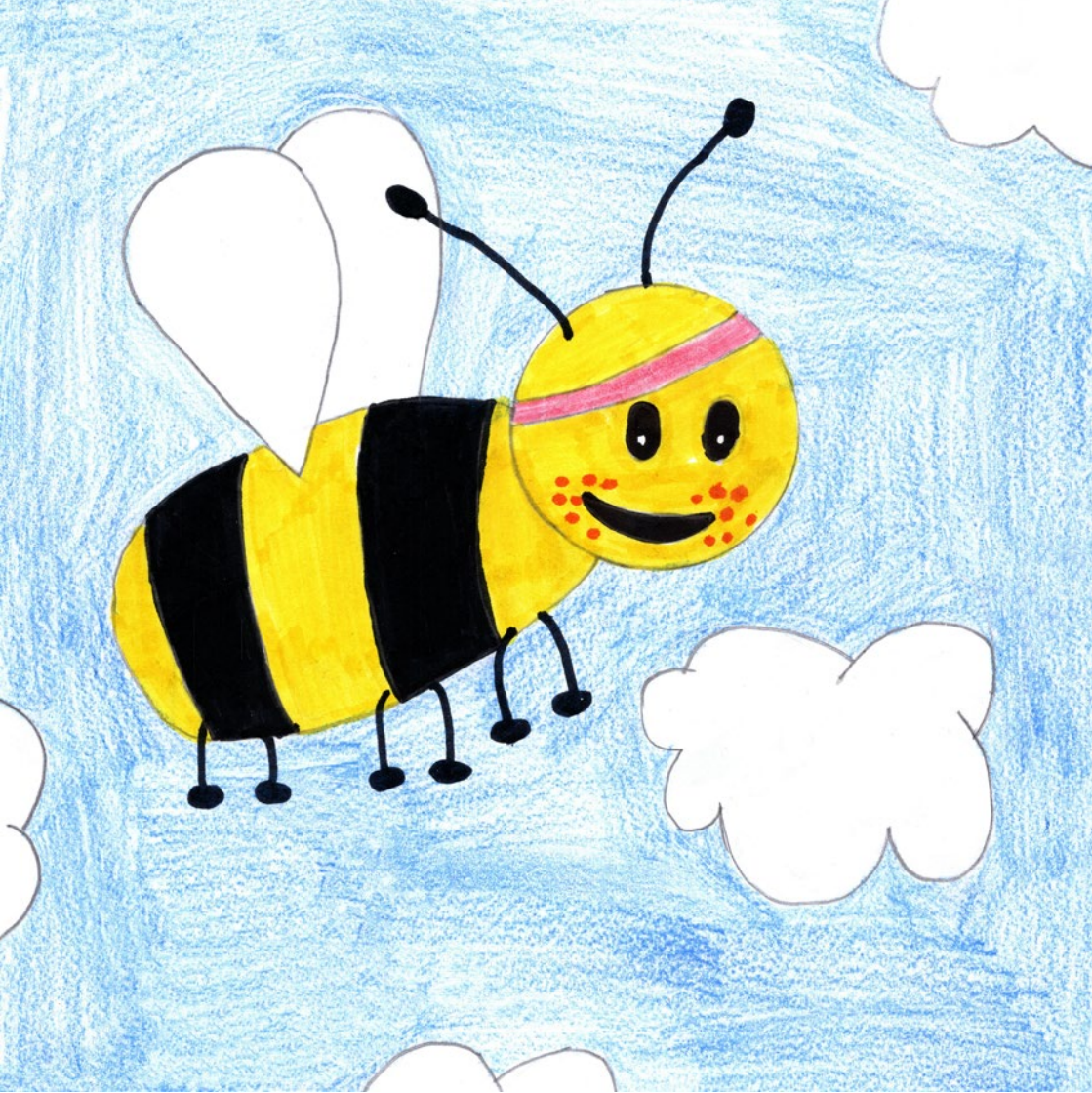


I wet the dry pollen and nectar with juices from my mouth. This allows me to pack it in my nectar sac until my sacs are as full as a swimming pool.





Before the journey home,
I need to eat some nectar
to get my energy back.



To do this, a valve in my nectar sac opens and a portion of the nectar passes through to my stomach to be converted to energy.



Now that I have some energy, it's time to start the journey home!

I fly back passed the big red AMAZING sign. I continue through the tall gum trees and over the endless growing, green grass. I'm nearly home!

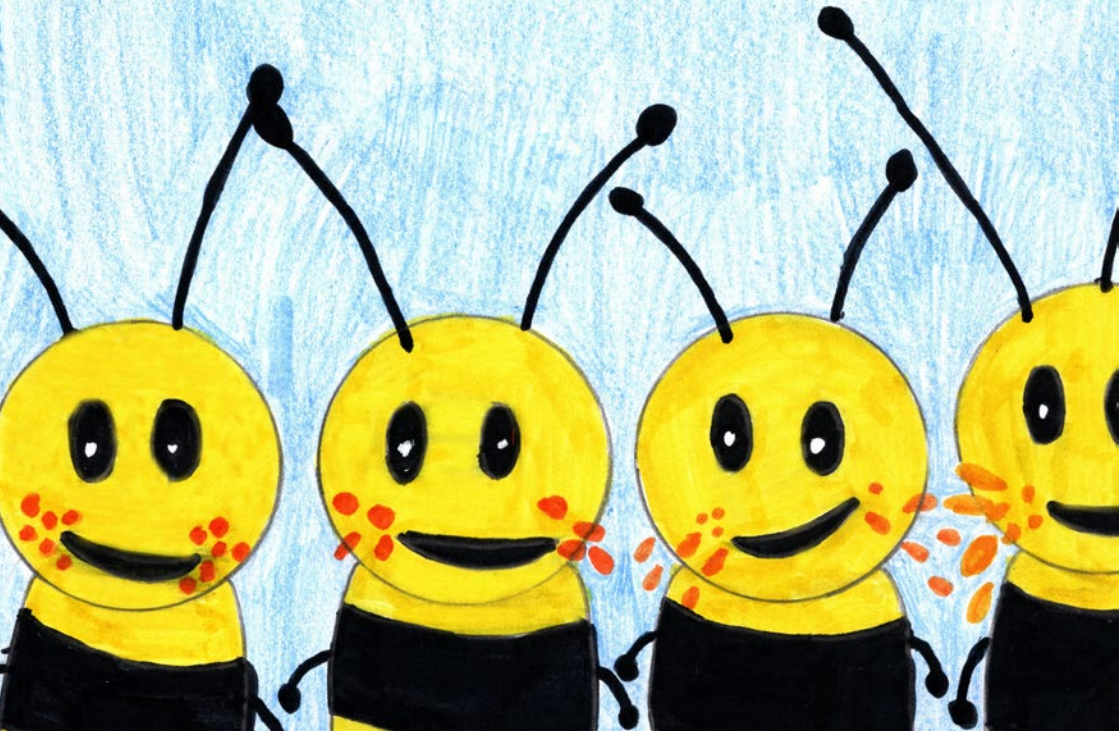
When I arrive home, I pass all the nectar I collected to an indoor bee.

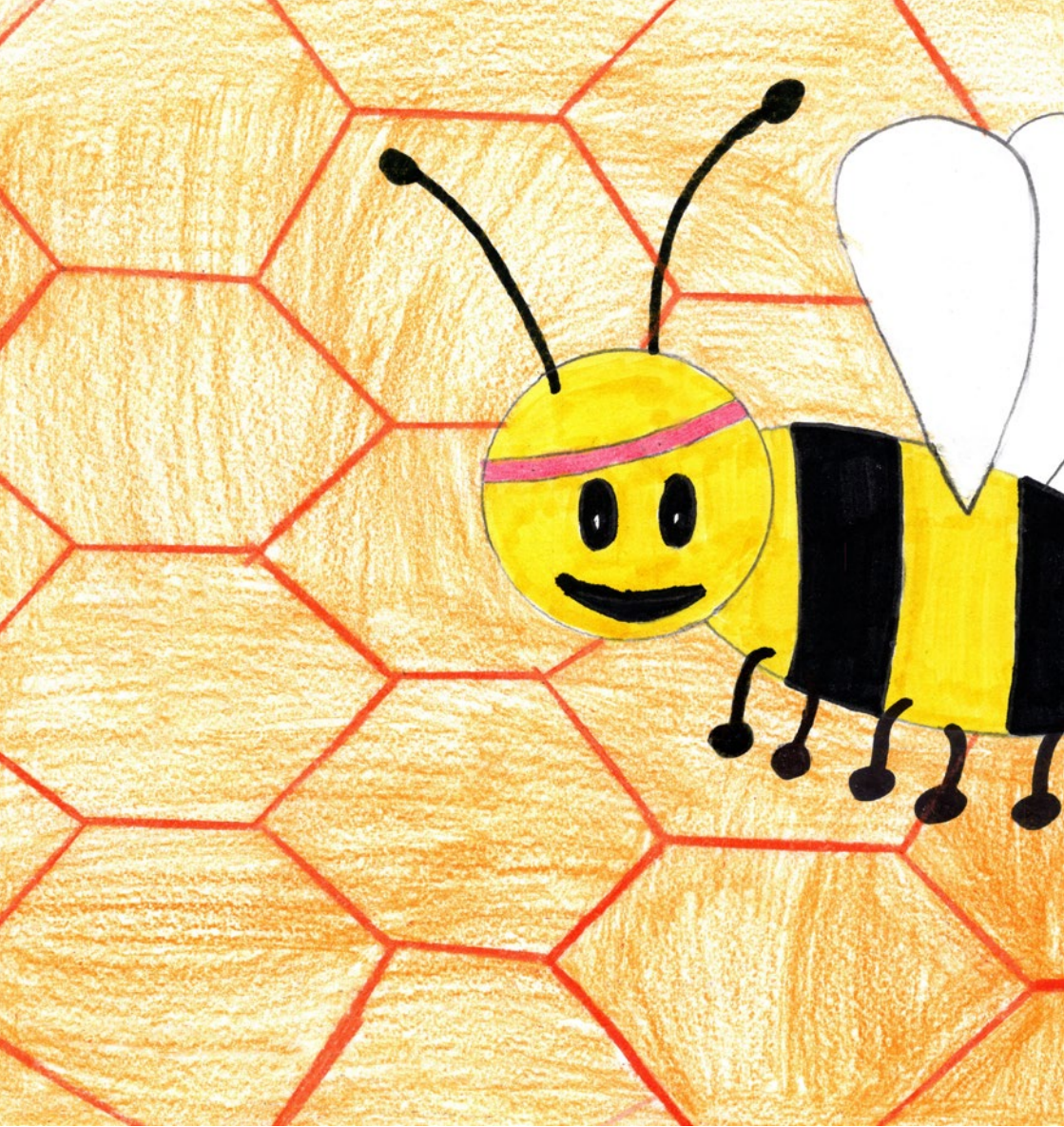
I am an outdoor bee, so my job is to collect all the pollen and nectar. The indoor bees stay inside to help make honey, protect the hive and tend to the queen and her eggs and larvae.



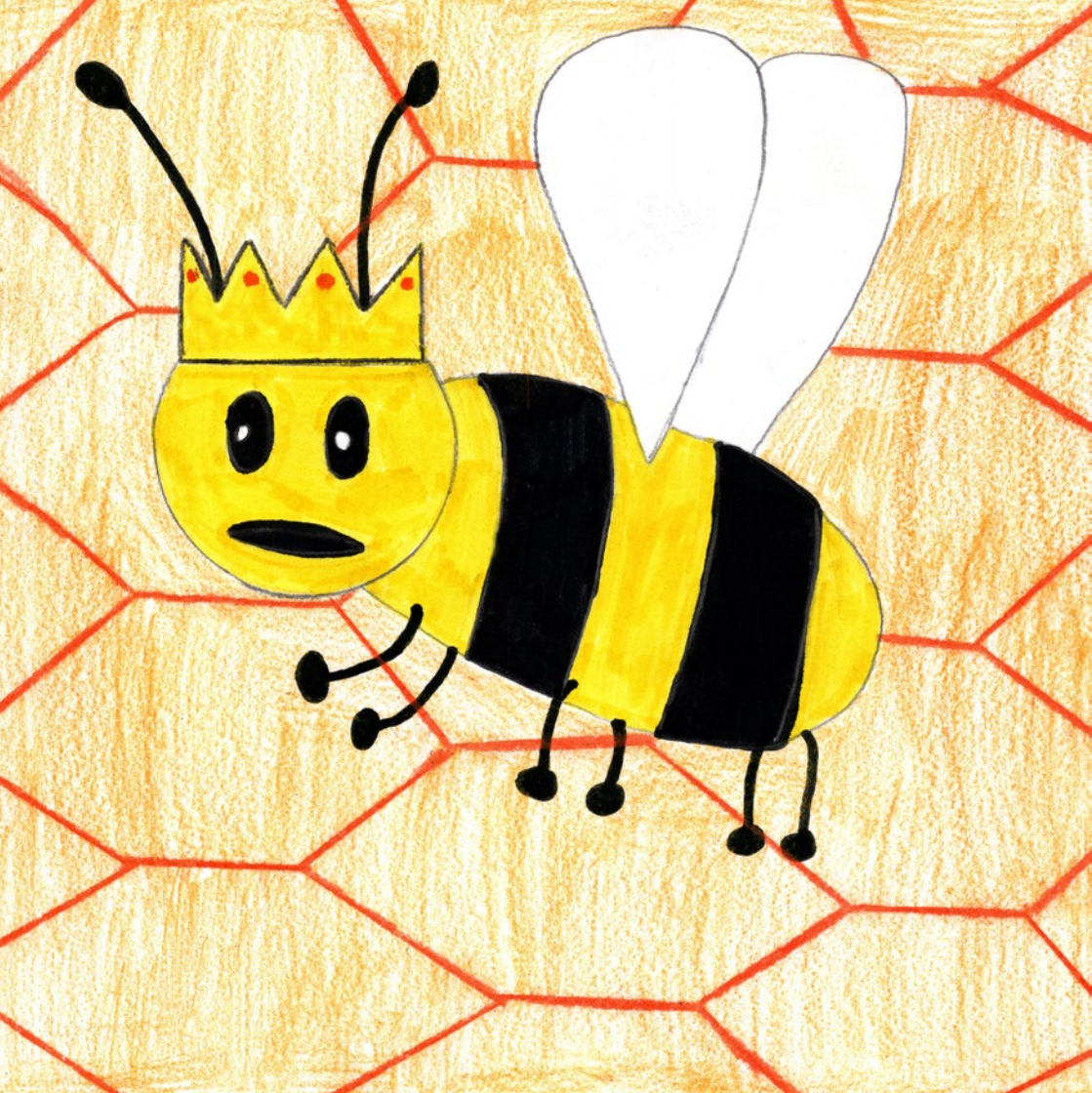
The nectar is then passed mouth to mouth, from bee to bee, until its moisture is reduced from about 70% to 20%.

This changes the nectar into honey.





After that, the honey is placed in storage cells and capped with beeswax in readiness for the arrival of hungry, newborn baby bees.

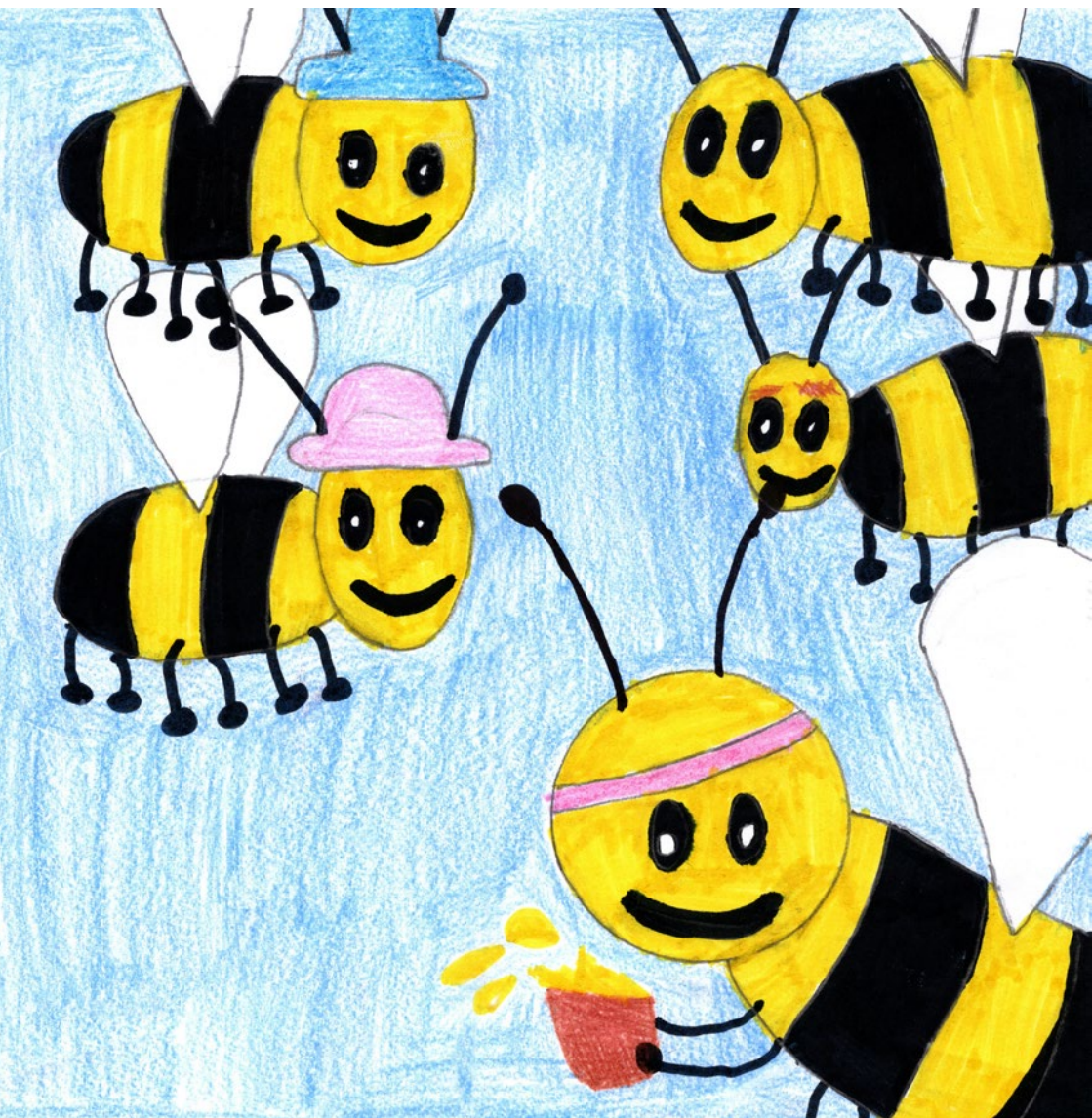


The Beekeeper will also come and harvest the honey out of the storage cells for humans to eat and to sell.



The journey of a honeybee
may be short compared to you
humans, but it is complicated.

We only live for 28 days, but we
have a full and busy life.

[illegible]

Matilda Stitt and Faith Paahi • Forbes Public School • Year 5/6 2020

