

The Life and Times of the Honeybee

BY CHARLES MICUCCI



MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- *The Life and Times of the Honeybee* - [Read Aloud Link](#)
- *Reading Rainbow The Lifecycle of the Honey bee* - video link
- *How Bees Can See the Invisible!* - video link
- Butcher Paper or sheets of printer paper and tape
- Watercolor paint and brush
- Black or brown markers
- Paper bags
- Pencil
- White school glue (optional)
- Sand (optional)
- [Lifecycle of the Honey Bee figures](#) (optional)

SUMMARY AND DETAILS

This non-fiction favorite explains all about the honey bee. From egg to bee and everything in between, Micucci answers questions for young readers about honey production, bee dancing, and beekeeping practices. Learn what the bees are doing around the world and what bees have done throughout history!

Lexile Level: IG910L

Guided Reading Level: N

Genre: Nonfiction

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

- What do you think *life and times* might mean? Look at each word separately and see if you have any thoughts.
- Look at the individual pictures on the front cover and make predictions about how each thing might be related to a honey bee.
- Page through the book without reading any of the details. Do you think this is a storybook? What is the story about? What do you think the author wants you to learn?
- Look at the picture in the middle below the title. This is called a **skep**. Look for this word as you read the book to find out its meaning!
- Did you know that bees have an ultraviolet vision? Check out this video, [How Bees Can See the Invisible?](#) before reading this book.

POST-READING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why are honey bees so important to us?
- What are the three kinds of bees in a hive?
- What are some of the jobs of the bees in the hive?
- What do you predict would happen if worker bees didn't have a pollen basket?
- Can you do a waggle run that would tell the other bees the distance from the hive to the food source is 500 yards?
- Look at pages twenty-four and twenty-five. What beekeeping equipment have you used?
- What are some things you use that come from bees?
- What do you want to learn more about from the *Buzzing Around the World* section on pages twenty-eight and twenty-nine?

POST-READING DISCUSSION ANSWERS

- They help pollinate the foods we like to eat, we use their wax to create useful items, and we enjoy eating their honey. Did you know that one in three bites of food that we eat is thanks to a pollinator?
- A queen, drones, and worker bees all live in a hive.
- The queen lays eggs and the drones mate with queens from other hives. The workers have jobs that include cleaning the hive, caring for the queen, feeding the young drones and larvae, making wax for the hive, foraging for nectar and pollen, making honey, and guarding the hive.
- They would not be able to gather the amount of pollen that they need to take to the hive for making beebread to feed the baby bees.
- The child would need to do five waggle runs (see page nineteen).
- The answer is subject to be different for every child.
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- Help your child do a search using [Kiddle](#) or [SCDiscus](#), both kid-friendly search engines.

ACTIVITIES

ROCK PAINTING

- On page five, there is a rock painting that shows how people collected honey from hives thousands of years ago! Research other images of similar paintings and make your own rock painting that include honey bees.
- Use a brown paper bag, cut one side so that it opens out like a flat sheet of paper, cut off the bottom of the bag.
- Crumple the bag, open it up, crumple again! Keep crumpling until it looks like an old weather-worn rock. The more you crumple, the more wrinkles and cracks will appear like a rock!
- Mix brown watercolor paint with water and paint over a few areas of the bag to make it look darker in some places. You can go for some darker spots by adding black and even a little bit of red. You want the paint and water to “bleed” into the paper bag fibers for a more realistic look.
- Let dry completely.
- (Optional) If you want to go a step further, paint watered-down white school glue onto the bag in a thin layer and sprinkle sand in some areas.
- Let it dry completely before starting to sketch.
- Use a pencil to sketch your own rock painting and then trace over your image with a black or dark brown marker.
- Build a blanket fort and pretend you are in a cave. Display your art and invite friends or family for a viewing!

FROM EGG TO BEE - LIFECYCLE OF A HONEY BEE

- Use your [Lifecycle of the Honey Bee figures](#) to explore what each stage looks like up close! Use your hand lens to get an even closer look!
- Watch Reading Rainbow [The Lifecycle of the Honey bee - Read Aloud](#) if you would like to learn more about the lifecycle from the queen bee to the egg-laying process.
- Read pages eight and nine in *The Life and Times of the Honeybee* and compare it to page fifteen in your Record Book.
- Make your own Lifecycle of the Honey Bee with the Lifecycle of the Honey Bee sheet below. If you do not have the figures, color copy, cut, and glue the images below in your Lifecycle of the Honey Bee sheet.



HONEY BEE DIARY

- Read pages twenty-two and twenty-three and think about what it would be like to be a honey bee for a whole year!
- Start a Honey Bee Diary, writing as though you are the honey bee. Create a diary entry for each month describing what you might be doing, thinking, or feeling. How would the weather affect you? What flowers are you visiting? Check out our [The Monthly Buzz Calendar](#) for more information and ideas of how to think like a honey bee.
- Create a comic strip of what you might be doing each month! Use a long sheet of butcher paper or tape several sheets of printer paper to make a long strip. Create twelve boxes and label each one with a month of the year. Draw images of you as the honey bee and what you would be doing during that month!
- Use your diary or comic strip to tell someone about what honey bees do throughout the year.

HONEY BEE TIMELINE

- Read pages thirty and thirty-one to learn more about *Flying Through History*
- Create your own timeline! Use a long strip of butcher paper or tape several sheets together to make a long strip.
- Use a meter stick and pencil to draw a long line from one end of your paper to the other end. Use the information from the book to tell about the honey bee through history. Add your own pictures to go with your information.
- Research anything you would like to add to your timeline, including when YOU started your work with the honey bees.

The Honeycombers Book Club - The Life and Times of the Honeybee lesson standards

ELA COMMON CORE

WRITING STANDARDS FOR LITERATURE / INFORMATIONAL TEXT

1st Grade: [RI.1.1](#), [RI.1.2](#), [RI.1.5](#), [RI.1.7](#), [W.1.1](#), [W.1.2](#), [W.1.8](#)

2nd Grade: [RI.2.1](#), [RI.2.2](#), [RI.2.5](#), [RI.2.6](#), [W.2.2](#), [W.2.8](#)

3rd Grade: [RI.3.1](#), [RI.3.2](#), [RI.3.1](#), [W.3.1](#), [W.3.2](#), [W.3.8](#)



Name: _____

LIFECYCLE OF THE HONEY BEE

Use the diagram below to illustrate and explain the lifecycle of the honey bee. Be as creative as you want to be with your illustration. Include some words to tell what is happening at each stage.

