

Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera

Author: Candace Fleming

Illustrator: Eric Rohmann

Related Books:

Give Bees a Chance by Bethany Barton

Princesses Save the World by Savannah Guthrie

[*The Case of the Vanishing Honeybees*](#) by Sandra Markle

[*The Sticky Situation*](#) by Geronimo Stilton

[*Honeybees and Frenemies*](#) by Kristi Wientge

You Wouldn't Want to Live Without Bees! By Alex Woolf

[*Please Please the Bees*](#) by Gerald Kelley

Giant Squid by Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann

Websites:

Author website: <https://www.candacefleming.com/>

Teaching Guide:

https://holidayhouse.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Honeybee_Lesson_Plan-1.pdf

Book Read-aloud: <https://youtu.be/d5ssgikeoFY>

Book Talk:

Do you think the only things a honeybee does involve flowers? The action starts early in this overview of the life of a honeybee. Before the title page, an upclose image of a honeybee first emerging from her cell introduces us to *Apis mellifera*. Beautiful illustrations bustle with bee activity, and vivid vocabulary captures all the *Apis* activities. There is a lot more to a bee's life than just gathering pollen and making honey -and this *Apis mellifera* is the perfect tour guide to show you!

Discussion Questions:

- *Apis mellifera* does a lot more than just flying to flowers. What did the honeybee do before she learned to fly? Did you realize honeybees had that many jobs?
- Teamwork and cooperation are key to honeybee survival. Why is it so important? How do honeybees work together?
- The illustrations are very vivid. How do they help tell the story of *Apis mellifera*? How do they make you feel?
- What role do honeybees play in your life? Are they important?
- Candace Fleming uses very descriptive words to show how *Apis* lives. How does she use verbs (action words) and adjectives (describing words) to capture *Apis*'s life? How do her words capture what is happening to *Apis*, what *Apis* sees, and how *Apis* feels? Which

words made you feel like part of the action or like you could sense something just like Apis?

- Why did Apis have to wait so long to fly?

Activities:

- Explore beecityusa.org. 18 North Carolina cities have the designation of “Bee City, USA.” Is yours one of them? Follow their directions to plan and build a [habitat](#) for pollinators.
- *Apis mellifera* communicate with each other by dancing. Choreograph a bee dance. Use the end notes to figure out how each movement has meaning.
- Explore bees with the [San Diego Zoo](#) or with [NASA](#). Create your own bee following NASA’s instructions.
- Explore bees through Minecraft [here](#).