

# Honeybees

by ReadWorks



Have you ever seen a honeybee? If so, you may have kept your distance. Many people are scared of their stingers! But honeybees are not scary pests. In fact, they are actually very important insects.

If you've seen a honeybee, think about where you saw it. You may have seen it by some flowers. Honeybees go from flower to flower. They collect nectar and pollen from the flowers for food. They can use this to make honey to eat. This is the honey that people eat, too!

But honeybees aren't just important because of the honey they make. They're important because of how they help plants. When they go from flower to flower, they move the pollen from flower to flower, too. This is called pollination. This is what lets plants grow new seeds! And those new seeds can grow into new plants. So without honeybees, a lot of plants couldn't exist.

Apples, nuts, and berries are just some of the plants that need honeybees to help them make new seeds. About 100 important crops in the U.S.A. depend on bees!

Many people are worried because a lot of honeybees have been dying. Some people think the chemicals used on farms may be hurting them. Honeybees are also being hurt by diseases that we don't understand well yet. But people are working to find ways to save the bees. How would you like to help the bees?