

## Q for Queen Bee

Honey bees are the only insects that produce a food consumed by humans. Honey is produced in one of the busiest yet most efficient factories in the world - a beehive.



Honey bees are social insects. A colony of honey bees includes a queen, drones and workers.

There is only one queen per hive. She is the largest bee in the colony. The queen may live up to 5 years. She lays up to 2000 eggs per day.

All workers bees are females, but they are not able to reproduce. A colony can have 50,000 to 60,000 workers. They collect nectar to make honey.

Drones are male bees that have no stingers. If the colony is short on food, drones are often kicked out of the hive.

Bees dance to communicate direction and distance of flowers. A bee visits between 50 and 100 flowers during one collection flight from the hive.

Bees have five eyes and four wings. Bees' wings stroke 11,400 times per minute, thus making their distinctive buzz.

Here is the beehive.  
Where are the bees?  
Hidden away  
Where nobody sees.  
Soon they will come.  
One, two, three,  
Four, five!

