



**MIND
ACTIVITY**

FRANCIS & FRIENDS

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES

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Activity Instructions

Francis learned to see the world as a connected place where everything has a role to play. Even very small things like honeybees are important to others, even our human diets! It has been estimated that these little creatures do the pollination for one-third of everything we eat. They bring us fruits, nuts and vegetables. Even chocolate needs the bee for pollination. So they are critical for so much more than honey.

Sadly, bee populations are declining. In many areas, the use of insecticides to protect our food crops has had the side effect of killing the bees that were needed to pollinate the crop. Once a colony of bees is placed under the stress of large numbers of deaths due to insecticides, the colony becomes vulnerable to parasitic mites that then devastate the honeybee populations. With such important things for honeybees to do, what can you do to help them survive?

Option 1 - Plant a pollinator friendly garden, provide nesting areas and avoid using pesticides that can harm pollinators and other beneficial insects.



When planning your pollinator friendly garden, consider using bee favorites. Bees prefer flowers with nectar tubes no more than two centimeters long with a landing spot for them to sit on. They are especially attracted to white, blue and yellow flowers with mild to no scent and round shapes with large amounts of pollen available.

1. Look for seed or plants at a neighborhood garden center that would attract bees and other pollinators
2. Plant the garden or pot of flowers and take care of them.
3. Make sure the plants are outside in an area that pollinators will be able to reach easily.

Supply List

Option 1 -

1. Flower seeds
2. Cups or pots for the seeds if not planting in the ground
3. Potting soil if needed

OR

Option 2-

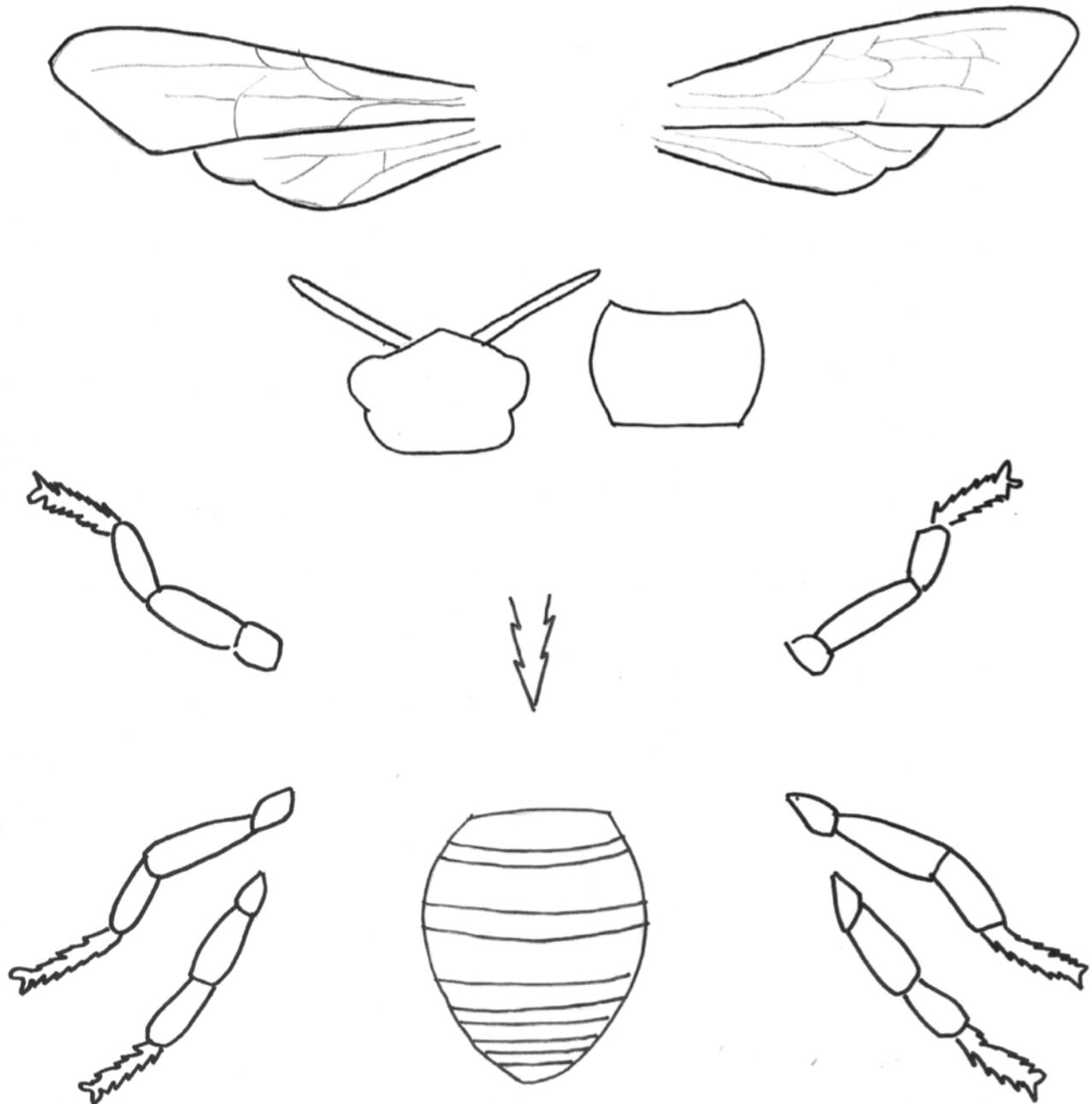
1. Printed copy of the bee body parts
2. Scissors to cut out been body parts
3. Glue
4. Paper to draw flowers or tissue paper to make flowers

Prayer

Dear God, it is amazing how everything in creation is connected. I pray that the sight of a bee will be a reminder of how you call me to make an impact on all that I come in contact with. Amen.

Option 2 - Imagine being a bee

Cut out the body parts below and glue them together to build a honeybee. Draw flowers or make them from tissue paper, creating ones that would be desirable to the honeybees. Make a mobile or wall/bulletin board piece with the bees and their favorite flowers!



Discussion Questions

1. How does the shape of a flower make it easier or harder for the bee to pollinate it?
2. What makes a bee an insect?
3. How can you plan a garden so there are things blooming for pollinators all year long?
4. How can you manage pests without using pesticides in your garden?
5. What does it say about God that every single thing in creation is important to the survival of all things?

Additional Links

Texas AgriLife Extension, Part of the Texas A&M University System https://www1.maine.gov/dacf/php/integrated_pest_management/school-ipm-curricula/elementary/documents/Bees_TeacherBooklet.pdf

The Mother Nature Network. <http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/animals/stories/the-importance-of-honeybees>

