

How Do Honeybees Make Honey

Making honey takes about 45 days. It's made from flowers and used to feed the family of bees. It takes a lot of bees to make a jar of honey. 12 honeybees will make just 1 teaspoon of honey. This is how they do it:

1. The honeybee finds a flower. The bee has a long tongue. They use their tongue like a straw. The bee sucks the nectar from the flower. Nectar is sugary juice that the flower makes.
2. The nectar goes to a second stomach. This is known as the 'honey stomach'. The bee keeps collecting nectar until the honey stomach is full. This could take 50-100 flowers.
3. The bee flies back to the hive when the honey stomach is full. It passes the nectar to other bees in the hive. They pass the nectar from mouth to mouth.
4. The bees chew the nectar then pass it to another bee.
5. As the bees do this, the nectar turns into honey. Now it can be stored in the honeycomb. Honeycomb is wax tubes which the bees have made.
6. The honey is like a sweet juice. The bees flap their wings over the honey. This makes it thicker.
7. When the honey is ready, the bees seal the honeycomb with wax. This will keep it safe and fresh. It's the same as us putting it in a jar.

Bees often make extra honey to be sure they have plenty over winter. If beekeepers are very careful to look after the bees and only take honey that is not needed, then the bees are not harmed.



R: What does a honeybee make honey from?

R: How many bees does it take to make 1 teaspoon of honey?

E: How does the bee get the nectar from the flower?

E: How do the bees make the honey thicker?

R: What does a bee do to keep their honey safe and fresh?

I: Do you think it's ok for us to take honey? Why?