

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow.

Bees-a-buzzing

Have you seen a little yellow and brown insect flying around? If you have, then you may have spotted a honeybee!

Honeybees live on stored honey and pollen all winter and cluster into a ball to conserve warmth. All honeybees are social and cooperative insects. Members of the hive are divided into three types. Workers forage for food (pollen and nectar from flowers), build and protect the hive, clean, and circulate air by beating their wings. The queen's job is simple—she lays the eggs that will generate the hive's next generation of bees. There is usually only a single queen in a hive. If the queen dies, workers will create a new queen by feeding one of the worker females a special food called "royal jelly." This elixir enables the worker to develop into a fertile queen. The third type is the drones. These are male; they do not have stingers and are also needed to generate the hive's next generation.

Did you know honeybees were not always found in the United States? They were brought here a long time ago by travelers from Europe. Honeybees are very important insects. They help all kinds of plants to grow! They travel to different flowers, vegetables, and fruit to look for nectar. They collect nectar and also transfer pollen between different plants, a process called pollination. This is important because it helps plants to make seeds or grow fruit.

In fact, bees are titled the most important beings on Earth because a large percentage of the world's agriculture depends exclusively on bees. Without the hard work of bees' pollinating, those plants would not be able to reproduce.



What happened to the bees?

Bees help in growing a third of everything we eat and play a vital role in sustaining the planet's ecosystems. A large percentage of the crops grown for human consumption—around 400 different types of plants—need bees and other insects to pollinate them to increase their yields and quality. In the process of foraging for food, bees are designed to pollinate. There is an apocalyptic quote attributed to Albert Einstein (although there is no proof he actually said it): "If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years left to live." It resonates with people as a likely result of the bees dying. It highlights how mankind's survival has been totally linked to bees.

Cave drawings dating back 20,000 years depict images of honey hunting. There are 25,000 different bee species around the world.

The vast majority of the world's bee species are solitary bees. As their name suggests, they live alone. Many are adapted to pollinate one type of plant and their life cycle is synced with the plant so they are able to pollinate it and feed their young at the same time.

In 2007, colony collapse disorder wiped out a third of all honeybee colonies in the US. The disorder is still not fully understood, but the combination of viruses, poor nutrition, and chemicals are thought to be behind the widespread death of honeybees in the US, where 40% of the colonies are still dying each year.

A Fill in the table below.

Bees-a-buzzing (Difference)	Similarities	What happened to the bees? (Difference)
<p>Topic: What topic is being explored in these two texts? How are the topics different?</p>		
<p>Supporting Details: List at least two details the texts have in common and two that are different.</p>		

B Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences.

1. Honeybees are _____ (describe the honeybees).
2. They are important for humans because they _____

3. There are many reasons why bees are dying, such as _____

