



Fun Facts about the Honey Bee

- Bees maintain a brood nest temperature of 93-95 °F, regardless of whether the outside temperature is over 100 or below freezing.
- Honey bees produce their own beeswax from eight paired glands on the underside of their abdomen. This is analogous to you secreting your own dry-wall for your home.
- The average worker bee will produce 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime.
- Honey bees fly around 55,000 miles and visit 2.6 million flowers to make one pound of honey.
- Americans consumed about 317,401,832 pounds of honey in 2002 (based on a per capita honey consumption of 1.1 pounds per year).
- The "brain" of a worker honey bee is about a cubic millimeter, but has the densest neuropile tissue of any animal.
- Drone bees have a grandfather, but no father. This is because drones arise from unfertilized eggs, yet their mother, the queen, arose from a fertilized egg, like all female bees.
- Honey bees are the main commercial pollinator for over 100 insect-pollinated crops worldwide.
- Many states have selected the honey bee as their State Insect. These include: Arkansas (1973), Georgia (1975), Kansas (1976), Louisiana (1977), Maine (1975), Mississippi (1980), Missouri (1985), Nebraska (1975), New Jersey (1974), North Carolina (1973), Oklahoma (1992), South Dakota (1978), Utah (1983), Vermont (1977), and Wisconsin (1978).
- A honey bee flies at speeds up to 15 mph and its wings beat 200 times per second.

Adapted by MSS from: (1) USDA: <http://gears.tucson.ars.ag.gov> and (2) Canadian Honey Council: <http://www.honeycouncil.ca/bees.html>.