

Topics Covered in School Presentations

Objective for this class: To introduce students and adults to the life cycle of the honey bee, the importance of the honeybee to the foods that humans eat and to create future beekeepers!

Topics Include:

1. Honeybees belong to the category of animals called Insects .
2. Life cycle of Insects: egg, larva, pupae, and adult;
3. The anatomy of the honeybees includes: the 3 body parts, the antennae, the eyes, the legs, the internal organs and the wings.
4. Varroa mites are in the Spider Group; they have 8 legs not 6; Varroas (just like ticks) are vectors of parasitic diseases like Nosema, deformed Wing Virus and many more.
5. The parts of the flower and what the bee needs from the flower.
6. The role that the honeybee plays in the pollination of the flowers and other plants
7. beekeepers will describe life inside and outside the hive
7. The crisis situation that is occurring in the world today with Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), the Varroa mites and the parasites it carries.
8. Definition of Swarms and why they are so important for the Honeybees
9. What can kids do: report swarms and plant gardens
10. What is it like to be a beekeeper.
11. Genetics of the honeybee and their reproductive cycle
12. Environmental Issues: monoculture, Use of pesticides, commercial beekeepers versus hobbyist beekeepers.
13. Honey and maybe honey tasting
14. The aging population of beekeepers and the need for more young folks to become beekeepers
15. 4H and other youth organizations interested in beekeeping

Materials brought to Classrooms: Hive components and various supplies that are used by the beekeeper in their work as a beekeeper.

Activities could Include Any of the Following:

Students will see a demonstration of a honeybee hive (without living bees in it) being assembled.

Students will see a honeybee model with each part of the anatomy discussed.

Students will examine a flower (an artificial flower) and identify the various parts of the flower especially pollen and nectar.

