



Project Skills:

- Youth will correctly identify the three body parts of an insect.

Life Skills:

- Learning to learn

Academic Standards:

- English Standard A.4.2: Reads and responds to literature.

Grade Levels: K-2

Time: 45-60 minutes

Supplies Needed:

Read a Book Activity

- *The Bee Tree* by Patricia Polacco (ISBN: 0698116968)

Guarding the Honey Pot Game

- Chair
- Blindfold
- Rolled-up newspaper
- Plastic bowl
- Jingle bells

Bee Dough Activity

- Cream cheese
- Non-fat dry milk
- Honey
- Sliced almonds
- Cooking equipment – bowls, measuring cups and spoons, waxed paper
- Or modeling clay

Enhance/Simplify – Pass the Honey

- *Honeybees* by National Geographic Children's Books (ISBN: 0792266781)
- Hula Hoop

WHAT TO DO

Activity: Read a Book

Read *The Bee Tree* with the youth. Use your pre-reading strategies to get the youth interested in the book. In the book, Mary Ellen gets tired of reading indoors, so her Grandpa takes her on a wonderful trip to the Bee Tree. Make sure all the youth are able to see the illustrations in this book that really help tell the story.

Game: Guarding the Honey Pot

Players sit in a circle on the floor. One person is the “Bear” and sits in the center on a chair. Bear wears a blindfold. The jingle bells are put in the plastic bowl and placed under the chair. This is “Bear’s Honeypot.”

One at a time the players try to sneak up on Bear’s chair to steal the honey pot. Bear can stop them by *gently* tapping players’ hands with the rolled-up newspaper, in which case the player returns to his or her seat in the circle and the next player tries. If a player succeeds, then that person becomes Bear and a new game begins. Remind players to be quiet so Bear can’t hear them!

Activity: The Bee Song

In this activity you will sing the Bee Song with the group to the tune of “Three Blind Mice.” Before you begin, show youth the picture of a bee (see illustration) and point out the three main body parts: head, thorax and abdomen.

Three Body Parts

Three Body Parts

Here’s where they are

Here’s where they are

The HEAD is connected to the THORAX

The THORAX is followed by an ABDOMEN

An insect always has all these

Three Body Parts

Three Body Parts

Note: Song adapted from Paula Huff’s “Going Buggy” Activity Series.

Activity: Bee Dough (these supplies are not included in kit)

Youth can use what they have learned about bee bodies to shape these treats into realistic bee models. (You could also make the bees from *modeling clay*.) You’ll need:

- 8 oz. package of cream cheese
- ½ cup non-fat dry milk
- 1 tablespoon honey
- Sliced almonds

Begin all cooking activities by having everyone wash their hands. Then combine the cream cheese, milk and honey in a bowl and mix until well blended.

Give each child about a tablespoon of dough to shape into the form of a honeybee. Emphasize that the bee should have a head, thorax, abdomen, and two pairs of wings (the sliced almonds) attached to the thorax. They may have other suggestions to make the honeybees more realistic. Compare the dough bee models to an illustration of a bee. By then it may “bee” time to eat!

Enhance/Simplify – Bee
Windsocks

- Black & white construction paper
- Yellow & black crepe paper
- Glue
- Squiggly eyes
- Black pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- String

Do Ahead:

- Preview books.
- Purchase food or modeling clay (not included in kit).

Sources:

- Created by Kathy Kauth, Urban 4-H Coordinator, UW-Extension, Brown County.
- “Introducing a New Book” under “Helpful Hints” is adapted from The Michigan Team Nutrition Booklist, Michigan Team Nutrition, Family and Consumer Sciences, Michigan State University, 2002.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What things can you tell me about bees?
- What are the three parts of the bee? (head, thorax and abdomen)

Apply:

- Where have you seen bees?
- Bees made honey for people to eat. What other foods do animals make that we can enjoy?

ENHANCE/SIMPLIFY

Enhance for Older Children:

- For a more in-depth look at honey bees, read *Honeybees* from National Geographic Children’s Books.
- As a teamwork challenge for older youth, play “Pass the Honey.” Have the group form a circle while holding hands. Remind them that bees live together in a hive and they all work together to make honey. Start a hula hoop at one point and tell them that the hoop is the honey and they are a hive of bees. Their job is to work together to pass the honey from one point to the other. After they have it going in one direction, switch directions.

Simplify for Younger Children:

As a simple craft project for youngsters, create “Bee Windsocks.”

- Bend black construction paper into a cylinder shape and glue it in place to create the body. Glue squiggly eyes onto side of the cylinder toward one end for the bee’s eyes. (You can also make eyes out of construction paper.)
- Cut wings out of white construction paper and glue onto sides of the cylinder for the wings.
- Cut long strips of yellow and black crepe paper, and glue the ends inside one end of the cylinder with the other end streaming out so that they can blow in the wind.
- Create two antennae with black pipe cleaners and attach them to the front end of the cylinder.
- Use a punch to make a hole for the pipe cleaners.
- Use the punch again to make two holes across from each other toward the front end of the cylinder. Cut a piece of string and tie each end to one of the holes to create a hanger.

HELPFUL HINTS

Introducing a New Book

Use these basic, pre-reading strategies to get students interested in a new book before reading it:

- Examine the cover to predict what the book will be about.
- Read the title of the book to, or together with, students.
- Identify the author and illustrator.
- Introduce important concepts and vocabulary words that might be confusing to students prior to reading the book.

While reading:

- Examine the cover to predict what the book will be about.
- Stop at the appropriate times to allow for participation and discussion.
- Encourage youth to interact with the text while listening to it. This helps them to understand and remember the important points.

After reading:

- Provide students with a time to reflect on the book.
- Ask them to describe their favorite part or to share something new that they learned from the story.

ADDITIONAL WEB LINKS

- For additional interactive activities for kids, go to www.cyberbee.net/ and click on the “Bees4Kids” button. Cyberbee is a service provided by the Department of Entomology, Michigan State University.

Reviewed by Wisconsin 4-H Afterschool Team: September 2005.

