Honey bees are specially built to make delicious honey. Each part of the bee plays an important role in helping the honey bee collect nectar and create natural honey.

THE ANATOMY OF A BEE

**ANTENNAE**
the moveable, sensitive feelers on a bee’s head, which detect odor and movement.

**WINGS**
the honey bee has two sets of flat, thin wings joined by hooks; forewings are larger than the hindwings.

**HONEY SAC**
the stomach-like organ that is connected by a funnel-shaped valve to the digestive tract.

**TONGUE**
a straw-like structure used for sucking nectar from the base of a flower or transferring honey.

**LEGS**
a honey bee has three pairs of legs used not only for walking, but also to dust off.

**MANDIBLE**
located on either side of the honey bee’s head, these jaw-like structures are used to chew honey and pollen, and to shape wax.

**STINGER**
used to defend against intruders, only female honey bees have one.

A BEE’S LIFE
Like many insects, honey bees go through four stages of development: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The bee changes dramatically in each stage.

1. A queen bee inserts her abdomen into an empty cell and lays a soft, white, oval egg about the size of a dot over an “i.”
2. After three days, a wormlike larva hatches from the egg. The larva is fed by worker bees and grows much larger.
3. On day ten, the larva stops eating and spins a silk covering called a cocoon around itself. An adult worker bee caps the cell with wax to protect the developing pupa. Inside the cocoon, a pupa develops and begins to look more like an insect than a worm. It grows eyes, legs and wings.
4. Finally, an adult bee chews its way out of the cell.

Eggs develop into different types of bees based on what they’re fed, on the size of the cell they develop inside and whether or not the egg was fertilized.
ACTIVITY:

BUILD A BEE

Color the bee below, then with the help of an adult, use scissors to cut out the different bee parts. Use a glue stick to glue the bee parts together according to the yellow guides on the bee.

SWEET FACT:

WHEN A HONEY BEE STINGS A PERSON OR OTHER ANIMAL, THE HONEY BEE WILL DIE. THAT’S BECAUSE THE STINGER HAS BARBS THAT PREVENT THE BEE FROM PULLING IT OUT OF THE PERSON OR ANIMAL IT HAS STUNG. WHEN SHE FLIES AWAY, SHE WILL DIE BECAUSE LEAVING THE STINGER BEHIND DAMAGES HER BODY.