



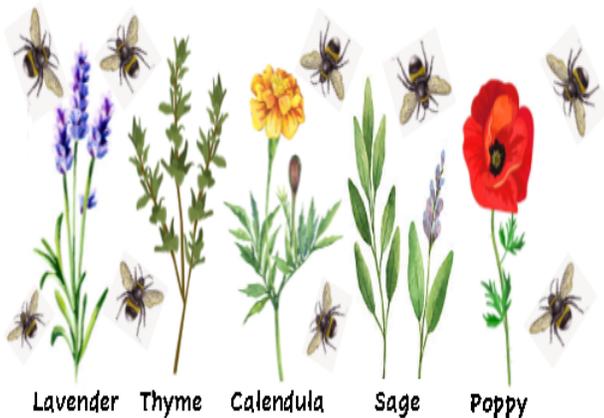
## Can You Help the Honeybees Perform Their Jobs?

National Honeybee Day is on August 15<sup>th</sup>, so join the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo to celebrate honeybees! Practice your children's fine motor and transfer skills as they learn about bees. Their duties are not easy tasks, for they work hard to collect nectar and pollen. See below for a variety of questions to engage your students even further:

- ✎ What is pollination? Why is it important?
- ✎ How do honeybees transfer nectar from flowers to the beehive?
- ✎ How does a honeybee make honey?
- ✎ Why is it important to have honeybees in our ecosystems?



Children will pretend to be honeybees and learn how bees are hard workers. In the first activity, they will learn how honeybees transfer nectar from one place to another. Use an empty egg carton to represent the "honeycombs" and have a jar full of water mixed in with yellow food coloring to represent "nectar." Kids will use a turkey baster to suck up the "nectar" and transfer it to the "honeycombs." In the second activity, children will learn how honeybees are pollinators. Use pipe cleaners to create bees. Prep the flowerbed ecosystem using two cupcake liners, one with coffee grounds and the other with flour. Children will practice pollinating by dipping their honeybee into the flour and then the coffee grounds and repeat multiple times. Children will observe how the flour and coffee grounds are mixing which demonstrates how pollination works.



Lavender Thyme Calendula Sage Poppy

## Plant These to Save the Bees

### How Do They Do Their Jobs?

Each bee is assigned to their roles to keep their beehive running smoothly and efficiently. Since bees need two different kinds of food, they collect nectar, the juice in flower to create honey, and the other food source is the pollen. As the honeybee sucks up nectar, it stores the honey in a specific part of their stomach to transfer it to the honey-making bees in the hive. In the beehive, they break down the nectar into sugars, thus creating fresh honey! The honeybees can collect pollen or nectar close to their weight, which is marvelous of how strong flyers they are! Plants depend on bees to act as pollinators so that they can reproduce and grow.

Honeybees play a crucial role in our ecosystem for many foods depend on pollination, such as strawberries, blueberries, sweet potatoes, lettuces, and so much more! Can you imagine a life without honeybees? We would not have these delicious fruits and vegetables to nourish us! Unfortunately, the honeybee population is declining worldwide due to pesticides, urbanization, and climate change. You can do your part by spreading awareness to your friends and family, planting their favorite flowers in your garden, and buy local. Share a picture of your honeybee skills by tagging #fwkidszoo or send to [education@kidszoo.org](mailto:education@kidszoo.org)!