

Assessment Answer Key

Native Bees

Note to teachers: The assessment should be used not as a pass-or-fail unit test but as an opportunity to diagnose students' language arts and science skills. We have designed it for students to have their copies of the "Buzz About Native Bees" student magazine available for reference as they work on answering the questions. Please use the assessment diagnostically. With struggling readers, take the opportunity to review their answers individually. We hope that the answer key provides suggestions that will help you improve students' reading. The assessment also can be given aloud as part of a class discussion. Most of all, we hope the assessment—and the entire Audubon Adventures program—will develop students' appreciation for and enjoyment of the environment we share.

1. Correct answer: c. The concept of bees' importance in a well-functioning ecosystem is referred to in various places throughout the student magazine. The first and most explicit instance is the last paragraph on page 1. Because pollination is such an important process for all living things, this question can serve as the foundation for a whole-class discussion or other investigations (e.g., photosynthesis, plant reproduction, food chains and webs) about the role of plants in the flow of energy through an ecosystem.

2. Correct answer: b. This is a challenging question because it requires students to evaluate each word in each list by reviewing the entire student magazine. Answer b is correct because: Unlike honey bees (which aren't native), most native bees are solitary, as is first explained in the first full paragraph on page 2 of the student magazine. As pointed out in "BEE-lieve It or Not!" on page 2, all bees are vegetarians (as opposed to wasps, which are carnivores). The fact that bees are insects is referred to throughout the student newspaper; the first reference is in the second sentence of the second paragraph of page 1. That solitary bees (i.e., most native bees) don't make honey and most don't sting is expressed in the second full paragraph of page 2. Bees do have four wings rather than two, as shown in the Venn diagram on page 3. You might work through the process of including "right" words and excluding "wrong" ones with the whole class, perhaps by making a logic table using all seven descriptive terms.

3. Correct answer: b. The answer is found on page 3 of the student magazine in "Bee Anatomy." Students who get this question wrong may be guessing or may have trouble reading diagrams or understanding what the term "behind" means as an expression of a spatial relationship shown in the illustration.

4. Correct answers: b, c. That bees have five eyes is explained in "BEE-lieve It or Not!" on page 2. "Bee bread" is described and defined on page 2 "Brood chamber" (answer c) is defined on page 2 in the first paragraph of "Springtime for the Digger Bee," and referred to again in the last paragraph of that feature. Getting the correct answers here requires scanning the student newspaper for context clues. Doing so allows students to rule out answers a (that pesticides harm bees is explained in both features on page 4) and d (that CCD is probably caused by a variety of factors is explained in "Honey Bees in Trouble" on page 4, but predators is not one of them). This is fundamentally a reading comprehension question, but getting the answers right is enhanced by efficient scanning and understanding context clues.

5. Correct answer: a. "Springtime for the Digger Bee" on page 2 details the life cycle of a digger bee and includes, in paragraphs 1 and 2, references to underground brood chambers. The last paragraph of that feature explains that the female digs into the ground to lay her eggs. A wrong answer is probably the result of guessing, especially since the other choices are all words that appear in the student magazine. Students who correctly chose c in the previous question should get this one right. If they don't, you might have a one-on-one discussion to figure out why. It might also be helpful to point out that the "digger" in the bee's name could be a clue.

6. Answers will vary. "Helping Pollinators" and "Honey Bees in Trouble" on page 4 of the student magazine are devoted to the idea that bees need healthy habitat and explain what people can do to help bees survive and thrive. Ideas to look for in students' answers include: Planting native plants, choosing garden plants that provide nectar and pollen, providing homes for bees (e.g., dry, woody stems), protecting habitat, avoiding the use of pesticides, buying organic foods. Students need not give all of these answers, but should demonstrate understanding that people can help bees through simple, environmentally-conscious actions.