



Who, what, when, where, why & how

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet

Identifying the 5Ws and H—**who**, **what**, **when**, **where**, **why** and **how**—can help you better understand what you read.

Read the story. As you do, annotate (underline or circle) for the 5Ws and H.

If you look closely at your garden on a warm summer day, you're likely going to see bees hard at work. Buzzing from flower to flower, they are collecting nectar and pollen. Nectar is a liquid from flowers that bees collect, bring back to the hive and then turn into honey. Pollen is a powdery material that comes from the middle of flowers. Pollen has lots of protein, which can help baby bees grow to be big and strong. Finding flower sources with both nectar and pollen is important for bees' survival. Thankfully, bees have developed a strategy to help them share the location of good flower sources with other members of their hive.

Close your eyes and pretend to transport yourself into a beehive. You're greeted by one honeybee who is doing a dance. Though she's not making any noise, it seems like she's trying to tell you something! Honeybees do a special dance called the waggle dance when they want to tell other bees where to find food. Though it may look like a meaningless little wiggle, it's actually a key part of how these bee colonies survive.

When a honeybee finds an area with lots of nectar or pollen, she will fly back to the hive. Rather than leading the other bees there herself, she uses her body to give directions! As she walks in a figure-eight, she does a little waggle. The direction of her waggle shows the other bees where the food is in relation to the sun. For example, if she waggles straight up in the air, the food is in the direction of the sun. If she waggles at an angle, the food is at that same angle from the sun. The length of her waggle matters too...the longer she waggles, the farther the bees need to fly!

When a bee starts a waggle dance, the other bees gather around. It's dark inside the hive, so bees use their antennae to feel the movement and vibrations of the dancer. When the dance ends, they buzz out of the hive and head in the direction of the food.





The waggle dance has been around for millions of years, and it helps entire hives of bees survive. When one honeybee can share the location of a good food source with their waggle dance, she helps their whole colony find food quickly! Even though bees are only tiny insects, the way they share information is one of the most intelligent in the entire animal kingdom.

Then fill in the blanks:

Who: _____

What: _____

When: _____

Where: _____

Why: _____

How: _____



Answers

Answers may vary slightly.

Who: Honeybees

What: Communicate where flowers are using the waggle dance

When: After finding a good source of nectar or pollen

Where: Inside the beehive

Why: To help the rest of the colony find the food source

How: A bee dances in a figure-eight pattern and waggles her body to show the direction of the flower and how far away it is.