



The Secret Life of Honeybees

Dancing directions, a hive full of sisters and honey that lasts for ages

Life in the hive

Bee	How many	What she or he does
Queen	1	Lays up to about 1,500 eggs a day
Workers (all female)	Tens of thousands	Clean, nurse, build, guard, gather
Drones (male)	A few hundred	Mate with queens; no stinger

A summer worker lives only about six weeks, working nearly the whole time.

The waggle dance

1

A forager finds flowers

She flies home with nectar

2

She dances on the comb

A figure-eight with a wagging run

3

The angle points the way

Measured from the direction of the sun

4

The length tells the distance

Longer waggle, farther flowers

Nobel Prize

Karl von Frisch decoded the dance and shared the 1973 Nobel Prize.

Sweet facts

1/12

teaspoon of honey
made by one worker
in her life

2 million

flowers visited for a
pound of honey, about

55,000

miles flown for that
pound, about

Centuries

how long sealed
honey can keep

Honey is low in water and slightly acidic, so germs can't grow in it.

Remember

Every spoonful of honey is the life's work of a dozen bees.