



They love honeybees so much in Georgia they named us the state insect. Sixteen other states have honored us in the same way. In my travels, I found out why we are so bee-loved.



Beezness: Antarctica is the only continent without honeybees. Brrrr! It's way too cold.

If it weren't for us honeybees buzzing around Georgia and elsewhere, pollinating crops, there would be a lot fewer cantaloupes, watermelons, and summer squash. One out of every three mouthfuls of food you eat is a result of honeybee pollination.









Pollination is the transfer of pollen from one flower to another to help the plant reproduce. Pollen and nectar from flowers provide food and energy to help us fly back to the hive. When at home, we use the nectar to make honey and the pollen to make bee bread to feed the bee larvae. Nice arrangement, don't you think?

The honey we make is the only food made by insects. It is also the only food that never spoils. You can keep honey forever and it will still taste good. It may crystallize, but if you put the container in a bowl of warm water, the honey will become liquid again.

There are more than three hundred different kinds of honey in the United States. My favorite kind is sourwood honey, which comes from the nectar of the sourwood tree. But don't worry; sourwood honey doesn't turn me from Itty Bitty Betty into Bitter Betty.





Beezness: Honey is 25 percent sweeter than table sugar and is not an empty calorie. It has lots of nutrients. When runners carried the Olympic torch through Hahira, Georgia on their way to the Atlanta Games in 1996, residents handed them honey sticks for instant energy.





I guess I should “back up” here. You know, bees can fly forwards, sideways, and backwards using our two pairs of wings.

We bees live in large groups called *colonies*. Our home is called a *hive*, with three types of bees living there: the *queen*, the *drones*, and the *workers*, like me.



