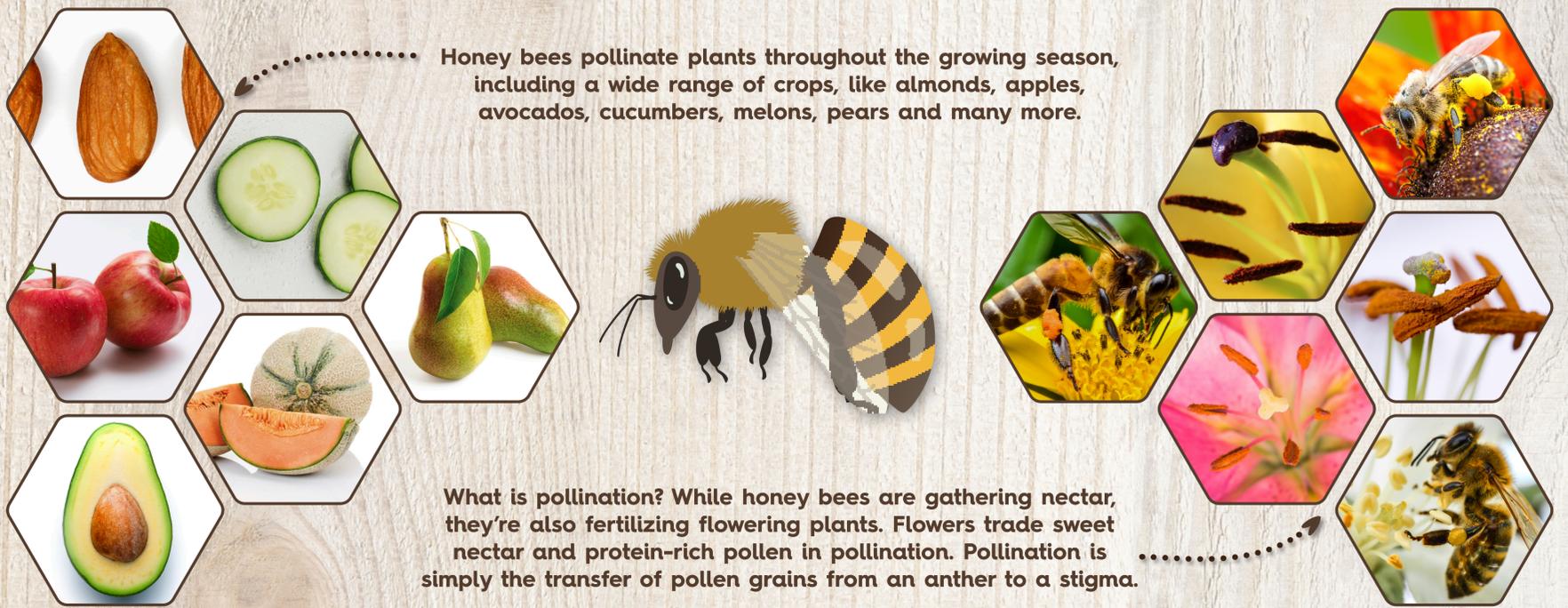


# WHAT DO BEES DO?

Everyone knows honey bees make honey, but they do so much more!

## BEES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR ECOSYSTEM

Honey bees pollinate plants throughout the growing season, including a wide range of crops, like almonds, apples, avocados, cucumbers, melons, pears and many more.



What is pollination? While honey bees are gathering nectar, they're also fertilizing flowering plants. Flowers trade sweet nectar and protein-rich pollen in pollination. Pollination is simply the transfer of pollen grains from an anther to a stigma.

## WHY DO BEES MAKE HONEY?

Honey bees collect nectar to create honey and store as food because it provides the energy for bees' flight muscles and provides heating for the hive in the winter. Fortunately, honey bees will make more honey than the colony needs, so beekeepers harvest the excess and bottle it for us to enjoy.



## ACTIVITY

# LEND A HAND



Honey bees help the plants we see and eat every day grow. But sometimes they need a little help. Want to help honey bees?

Plant bee-friendly flowers and flowering herbs in your garden and yard. Use all-natural products, free from chemicals, in your garden while plants are in bloom.

### IDEA STARTERS FOR BEE-FRIENDLY PLANTS:

#### HERBS any plant with leaves, seeds or flowers used for flavoring, food, medicine or perfume.



LAVENDER



SAGE



THYME

#### PERENNIALS plants that are expected to live longer than two years.



GERANIUM



CROCUS



SNOWDROPS

#### ANNUALS plants that complete their life cycle in one year.



SUNFLOWER



POPPY



CALENDULA

Bees are thirsty. Leave a shallow dish of fresh water with marbles or rocks outside for bees to drink. The marbles/rocks give the bees a place to stand while they drink and prevent them from drowning.



#### SWEET FACT:

WHEN AT THE HIVE, WORKERS BEES ALSO HAVE THE JOB OF:

- HELPING TO KEEP THE HIVE COOL BY FANNING THEIR WINGS
- COLLECTING NECTAR AND PRODUCING WAX COMB
- GUARDING AND CLEANING THE HIVE
- FEEDING THE BABY BEES AND THE QUEEN

