Year 4 reading comprehension: Busy bees

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 3 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

Read these texts, then answer questions 1–3.

Busy bees

Read the three texts on the theme of bees.

TEXT A

Honey begins as nectar, a sugary liquid made inside flowers. A worker bee sucks up the nectar through its long, tube-like tongue and carries it back to the hive in a special pouch called a honey stomach. Inside the hive, other bees pass the nectar from mouth to mouth and pack it into the six-sided wax cells of the honeycomb. Because nectar is mostly water, the bees fan their wings over the cells to dry it out. When the honey is thick enough, they seal each cell with a lid of wax.

TEXT B

Our gardens should be full of bees, yet in many suburbs bees are struggling to find enough food. You can help. Plant flowers that bloom at different times of the year, so there is always something for bees to eat. Choose natives such as grevilleas and bottlebrush. Most importantly, stop spraying insect poison on your flowers, because it does not only kill pests. If every family planted one bee-friendly garden bed, our streets would buzz again!

TEXT C

By mid-morning the lavender hedge was alive. Bees rolled from blossom to blossom like tiny gold barrels, their legs heavy with yellow dust. The whole hedge hummed, a low and steady note, as though somebody had left an engine running under the leaves. Mia knelt on the warm path and held her breath. She had never seen anything so busy, or so careful, in all her life.

1. Which text explains, step by step, how bees turn nectar into honey?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts A and C

2. Which text tries to get readers to change what they do in their own gardens?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts A and B

3. Which text shows a sense of wonder at the bees?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts B and C

Answer key

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1. A — Text A

Text A gives the steps in order: the bee 'sucks up the nectar', other bees 'pack it into the six-sided wax cells', they 'fan their wings' to dry it, then 'seal each cell'. Text C shows bees at work but never explains how honey is made.

2. B — Text B

Text B speaks to the reader: 'You can help', 'Plant flowers', 'stop spraying insect poison'. Text A only gives facts; it doesn't ask anyone to do anything.

3. C — Text C

In Text C, Mia 'held her breath' and 'had never seen anything so busy, or so careful'. That is wonder. Text B shows worry ('struggling'), not wonder.