

Canada Agriculture and Food Museum

From nectar to honey



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The foraging bee sees ultraviolet light reflected on the petals of a flower. It tells her where the nectar is.











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The bee lands on the flower. She sucks the nectar droplets and stores them in her honey sac.



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When she is full, the foraging bee flies back to the hive. Inside her honey sac, the nectar begins to turn into honey.

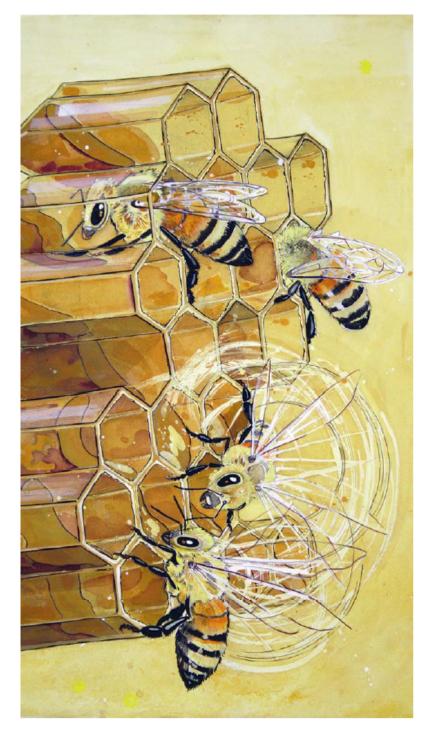


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Inside the hive, the foraging bee regurgitates the nectar and passes it to a hive bee.







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The hive bees deposit small droplets of nectar on the honeycomb walls. Hive bees fan their wings over the honeycomb. Water evaporates out of the nectar.





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When the cell is full and the honey is ripe, hive bees seal the cell with a thin layer of wax. The wax prevents the honey from absorbing water from the surrounding air and spoiling.

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