



## A Sweet Part of Nature

- 1 When people think of bees, they may also think of the sweet taste of the honey that bees make. However, some people may not know that bees help us in more ways than producing honey. Unfortunately, there aren't as many honeybees today as there were a few years ago.

### What's Happening to the Honeybees?

- 2 When scientists realized that the honeybee population was declining, they tried to figure out why. They think there might be several reasons for this. They found that honeybees are not as healthy as they have been in the past. More honeybees are suffering from diseases and catching viruses from bugs. Scientists also learned that some areas where bees live have been turned into farms. The wildflowers and plants that bees feed on have been replaced with crops, which limits honeybees' access to nectar and pollen. Another problem for honeybees may be the chemicals that are used to protect crops. The chemicals are sprayed on the crops, but they spread to other plants and flowers that bees depend on to survive.

### We Need Bees

- 3 Many of the fruits and vegetables that humans and other animals eat cannot grow without the help of honeybees. Honeybees carry pollen among plants. The plants need pollen to grow and produce more seeds. Without the help of honeybees, we would not have as many of the plants we depend on for food.



A Honeybee Covered in Pollen

- 4 Bees pollinate a wide variety of plants in the United States. They pollinate fruit trees, vegetable plants, and crops such as clover and alfalfa, which feed cows and other farm animals. Many people may not realize it, but honeybees are important to every living thing.

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**Drawing Conclusions**  
**A Sweet Part of Nature**

**What problem would most likely occur if there were too few honeybees?**

- A** There would be much less healthy food to eat.
- B** Diseases would spread more quickly.
- C** There would be more farms where bees once lived.
- D** More harmful insects would be alive.

**The author's purpose for including paragraph 5 in the article is most likely to –**

- A** explain the problems honeybees are experiencing
- B** state the benefits of taking care of honeybees
- C** describe ways to care for the honeybee population
- D** show why honeybees are good to have around

**This article was mainly written to**

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**The picture under paragraph 5 was included because**

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