

A Bee Story

Study Guide

About the show

IT'S A STICKY SITUATION.

A Bee Story is a uniquely Australian physical theatre show for children and families incorporating a kaleidoscope of circus, acrobatics, dance, and live music. It tells the story of Queen Bee and Worker Bee who must work together to rebuild their hive after it is destroyed by a bushfire. But things never quite go to plan...

Join the bees on their buzzy adventures and be enchanted by their pollen-collecting skills, honey-making abilities, and super-bee strength. A Bee Story has themes of friendship, sustainability, and working together.

Directed by performer Robbie Curtis (Cirque du Soleil, Circa, Australian Ballet), and co-created with musician and performer Lizzie McRae.



Information for Teachers

We are delighted to welcome you to the Lakewood Cultural Center for your class theater experience! Please feel free to use this guide in full or in part to provide additional context that will help your students engage with the performance.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the content, please reach out to our Arts Education Outreach Specialist Mailin Plagge at maipla@lakewood.org.



NAME: _____

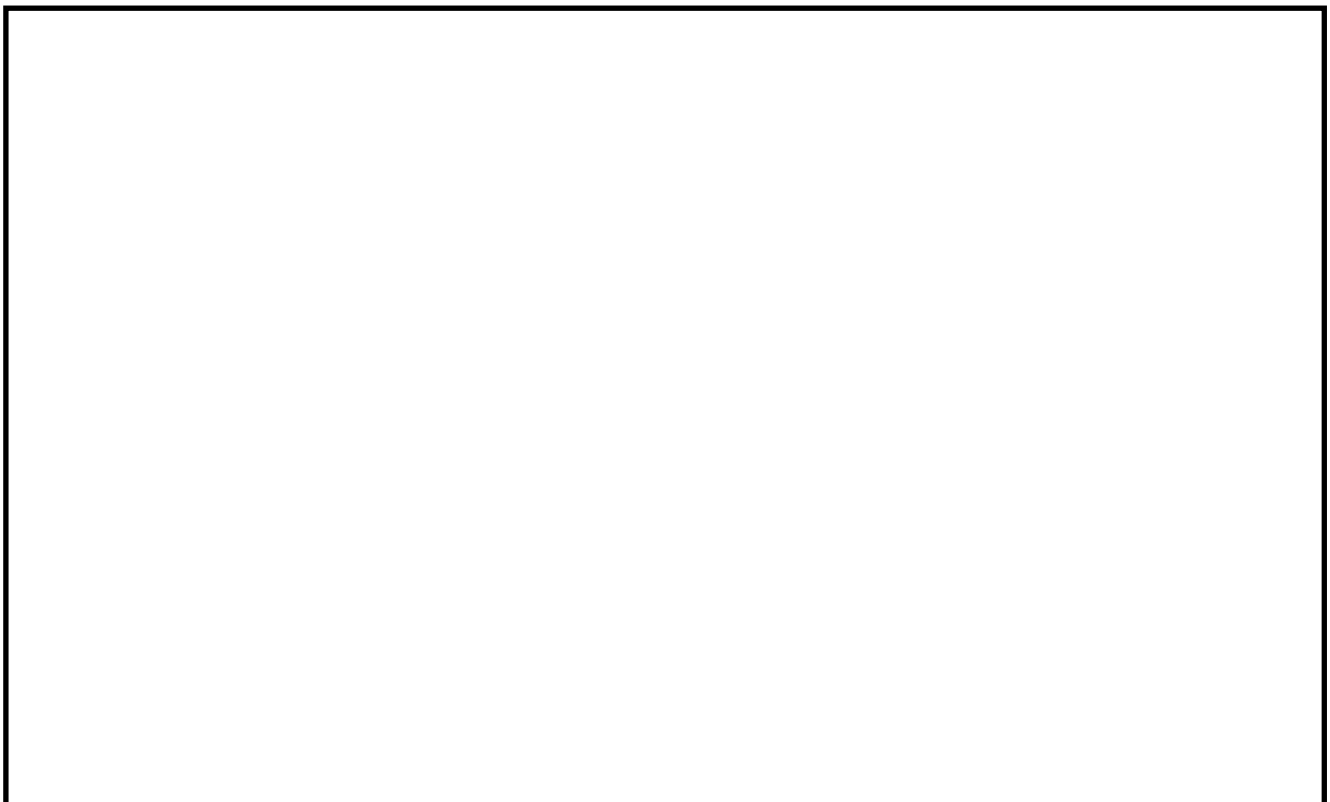
My prediction about “A Bee Story”

1. Finish the sentence using some of the words from the box below.

funny	sad	interesting	silly	scary
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I predict that “A Bee Story”
will be _____

2. Draw a picture of what the think you might see in “A Bee Story.”





Bee-fore the Show

Class Activities & Questions

A *Bee Story* is about two bees, Queen Bee and Worker Bee, who are on an adventure to build their home, collect pollen, and learn to work together as they go.

There's fun to be had along the way, as they use music, dance, and acrobatics to tell their story. You won't hear these bees say more than "buzz buzz" though—this story is mimed!

WHAT IS MIMING?

Miming is when an actor or actress tells a story or shows emotion without talking. They use their expression and the way they move to show you what's going on!

*Can you mime? How would you show us you're **happy** without talking? **Scared? hungry?***

Working Together!

Bees work together to build their hives, find pollen, and make honey.

1. When have you worked together with someone?
2. How did it make your task easier?
3. Can it sometimes be difficult to cooperate with another person?
How can we work better with people?

ALL ABOUT Bees

What do we already know about bees? Let's take a look at some photos to get us thinking...



Types of Bees



Queen Bee

The Queen Bee is the biggest bee in the hive.

She lays all of the eggs in the colony, up to 2000 a day!

The worker bees bring her food and groom her.



Worker Bee

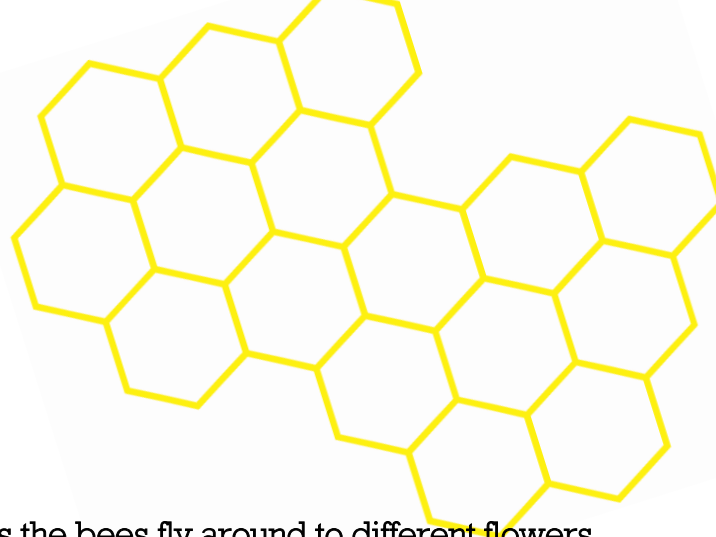
The worker bees collect nectar, pollen and water.

They build the hive and take care of it by making repairs and cleaning.

Some worker bees take care of the baby bees (larva).

Bees make honey!

And help us grow food.



Worker bees fly out to collect nectar and pollen from flowers.

When they drink the nectar inside the flower, pollen sticks to their legs and fuzzy bodies.

As the bees fly around to different flowers, the pollen that was stuck to them falls into the other blossoms and pollinates them.

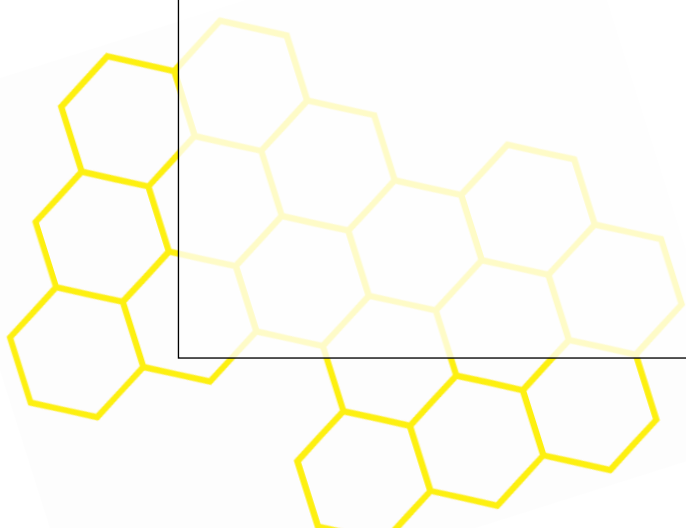
Pollinated plants grow fruits and vegetables!



The bees take the nectar and pollen back to the hive to eat and to make into honey.

They store it in what we call a *honeycomb*.

What kind of foods do we eat that are made out of plants?

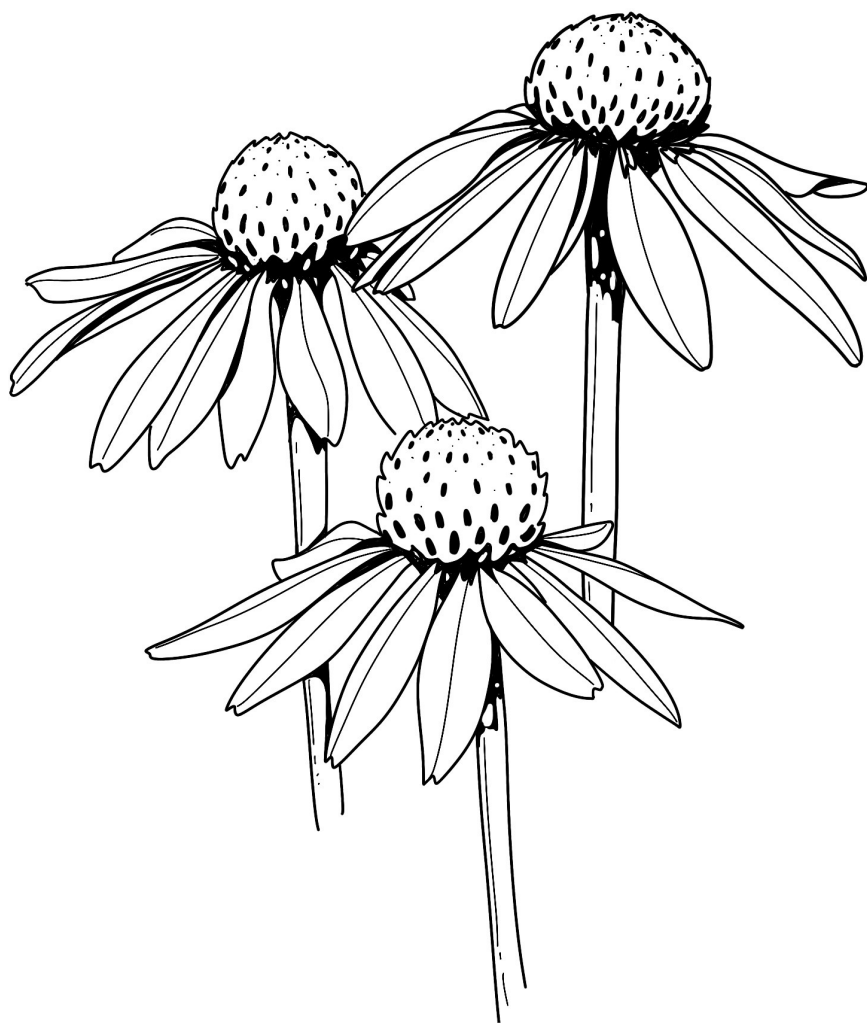


Color it in!

We all know bees love flowers! One of their favorites is the purple coneflower, like the one below. Purple is their favorite color. What's your favorite color?



purple
Coneflower



Echinacea purpurea

After the Show



Class Activities & Questions

1. Turn to the person next to you and share one of your favorite moments in *A Bee Story*. Then, share your ideas with the class!
2. What are some things you noticed from the performance that we know about how bees live?
3. How did the bees' friendship change throughout the show? Were they always kind to each other?
4. What were some of the emotions you noticed the bees going through?
5. How did you know this without hearing them speak?



ACT IT OUT!

It's time to get our bodies moving like the bees! Can you use your face, hands, shoulders, and legs to act out different emotions? Let's try!

Put on a song and move around the room with your whole body to show people you are frustrated, joyful, sad, tired, and determined.

Use the suggestions on the next page as a guide.



Don't forget to stretch first!

Want to step it up? Strut like a Queen Bee or stay busy like a Worker Bee. Try putting together a short play showing how bees leave the hive to collect nectar and pollinate flowers. Use your emotions!

Movements for **FRUSTRATION**

Music to improvise frustration:

[Flight of the Bumblebee by Rimsky Korsakov](#)



Movements for **JOY!**

Music to improvise joy:

[Juice by Lizzo \(Clean\)](#)



Movements for **sadness**

Music to improvise sadness:

[James Galway Flute Doppler Fantaisie pastorale hongroise, Op 26 National Philharmonic Orchestra](#)



Movements for **tiredness**

Music to improvise tiredness:

[Blue Flame by Woody Herman](#)



Movements for

DETERMINATION

Music to improvise determination:

[This Is Me—The Greatest Showman](#)



Bee Kind!

We need bees not just for honey, but to grow our fruits, vegetables, and grains.

But bees also need our help! Their homes are in danger. We need to keep our environment healthy for bees to live happy lives.

What can you do to give bees a happy home?

Look at the photos below to give you some ideas.

