**National Geographic Young Explorer, May 2008 issue.** (Marketed for Grades K-1)

Busy Bees

Honeybees are busy. What do they do?

Each honeybee has its own job. Some bees look for food. Other bees gather food. Honeybees eat nectar and pollen. Nectar is the sweet liquid in flowers. Pollen is the yellow dust.

A scout bee leaves its hive to find food. It needs to find flowers and nectar. A scout looks for a place with lots of flowers. It can visit more than 1,000 flowers in one day! The scout takes nectar and pollen back to the hive. Then it does a dance. This dance is like a map. It tells where the flowers are.

Worker bees watch the scout dance. A worker bee goes out to collect nectar. Pollen covers the bee. As the bee flies from flower to flower, it spreads the pollen.

Plants need pollen to make seeds. Without seeds, plants can’t grow. What would plants do without busy bees?

Lexile Score 460L (K-1 and 2-3 grade bands)

ATOS 2.7 grade level

Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level: 1.9 grade level

Flesch Reading Ease: 92.4 (very easily understandable by a 5th grader)

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