

Reading Comprehension: The Kindness of Bees

Read the passage carefully, then circle the letter next to the correct answer for each question.

Read the Passage

Honeybees are often called nature's hardest workers, and for good reason. A single bee may visit more than a thousand flowers in one day, gathering nectar and pollen that it carries back to the hive. This journey, though it seems small, has an enormous impact: as bees move from flower to flower, they pollinate crops that make up nearly a third of the food we eat, from apples to almonds. Inside the hive, bees cooperate with astonishing precision, communicating the location of good flowers through a special dance. Yet in recent decades, bee populations have declined sharply due to habitat loss, pesticides, and disease. Scientists warn that without bees, entire ecosystems could unravel, since so many plants depend on them to reproduce. Simple actions, like planting bee-friendly flowers and avoiding harmful chemicals in gardens, can help these tireless insects continue their vital work.

1. According to the passage, roughly how many flowers might a single bee visit in one day?
 (A) a hundred (B) five hundred (C) more than a thousand (D) ten thousand
2. What does the word "unravel" most nearly mean as used in the passage?
 (A) grow stronger (B) come apart (C) stay the same (D) speed up
3. How do bees communicate the location of good flowers to each other?
 (A) by buzzing loudly (B) through a special dance
 (C) by leaving scent trails on the ground (D) they cannot communicate

4. About what fraction of the food we eat depends on bee pollination, according to the passage?
- (A) one tenth (B) one third (C) one half (D) nearly all of it
5. Which of these is NOT mentioned as a cause of declining bee populations?
- (A) habitat loss (B) pesticides (C) disease (D) cold weather
6. What is the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Bees are dangerous insects to avoid
- (B) Bees play a vital role in ecosystems and need protecting
- (C) Honey is the most important bee product (D) Bees only live in tropical climates
7. What simple action does the passage suggest can help bees?
- (A) catching more bees (B) planting bee-friendly flowers
- (C) removing all flowers from gardens (D) moving bees indoors

Answer Key: 1) C · 2) B · 3) B · 4) B · 5) D · 6) B · 7) B