

JUDE T. JONES KID EXPLORER IN A BEEHIVE

Jude T. Jones watched some bees busily flying from flower to flower. He thought about what interesting creatures they are. He decided he wanted to become a bee to learn more about them.

Jude knew that bees live in groups called **colonies**. He also knew that there are 3 types of bees: **queen** bees, **worker** bees and **drones**. Worker bees clean the hive and take care of the baby bees called **larvae**. More importantly for him they are the ones who collect **pollen** and **nectar**. He would become a worker bee to enter the hive.

Jude wished to become a worker bee. He immediately transformed into a bee. All worker bees are female, so Jude was a girl bee. Jude felt a little nervous about his stinger. There was a **sac** with **venom** attached to it. Venom is poison. He knew that some people are actually **allergic** to this venom and could even die if they were stung by a bee.

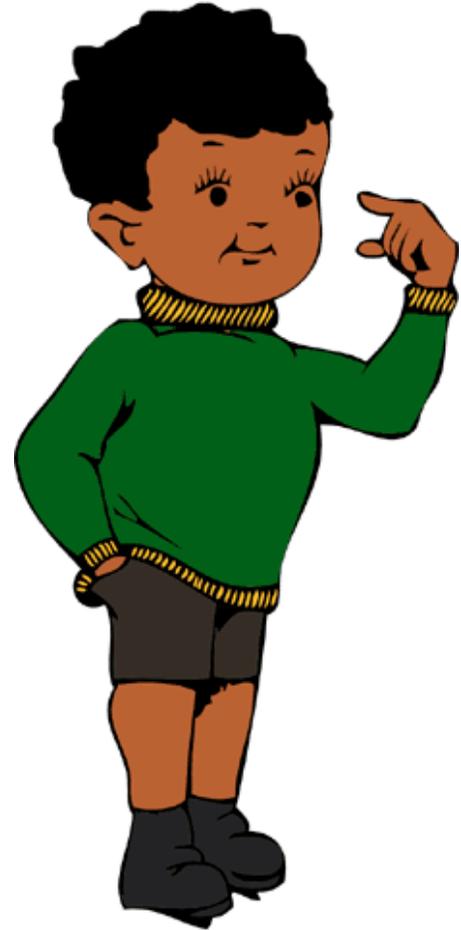
"I'd better be careful," he thought to himself. Most bees only sting to protect themselves. He hoped he wouldn't have to do that.



Jude started flying from flower to flower collecting nectar and pollen. He used his straw-like **proboscis** to suck up the nectar. Bees use pollen for food. They turn nectar into honey to use as food as well. When he was finished, he flew to the hive. He was checked by the guard bees to ensure that he had the right **odor** for that hive. Each hive has its own odor or smell.

Jude carried the nectar in his stomach. When he entered the hive he and the other bees **regurgitated** or threw up the nectar in his stomach.

The bees dropped the nectar into a **beeswax comb**. This is a hexagon-shaped cell that is made of wax produced by bees. When the comb was full the bees fanned their wings to thicken it and turn it into honey. Then they capped the honeycomb with wax and moved on to the next empty comb.



Suddenly a bee entered the hive and started dancing. Jude knew that this was called a **waggle dance**. Bees use waggle dances to communicate the location of flowers to other bees. Jude followed the other bees to the flowers. Then he wished to become a boy again.

"Bees are so busy all the time," he said to himself as he headed for home. "It's better to be a kid."

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STORY

What are the 3 types of bees in a colony?

What are baby bees called?

Why did Jude worry about stinging someone?

How does a bee suck up nectar?

What does a bee need to enter a colony?

Where do bees carry nectar?

How do bees turn nectar into honey?

What is a bee's dance called?

All Contents © 2011 EarlyKnowledgeforKids.org

The images are in the Public Domain and may be used by others.

No part of **Jude T. Jones Kid Explorer In an Ant Colony** may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system. Multiple copies may be made for personal or classroom use but may not be distributed in any way.