

Task: Bees

Approach: One to one
 Focus: Adaptations for habitat
 Resources: 2 pictures, recording book

Year: 4 & 8

Questions / instructions:

Hand student picture 1.

Here is a picture of bees. Bees are very helpful. They make honey.



Smith, P. (photo.) (1994); Visuals Canterbury; Lincoln: Natural Sciences Image Library.

1. What else do bees do that is helpful?

not marked

Hand student picture 2.

This bee is very busy at work in this flower.



Thompson, C. (photo.) (1994); Visuals Canterbury; Lincoln: Natural Sciences Image Library.

2. What do you think it is doing?

Explanation: comprehensive 2 5
 quite strong 5 10
 has general idea 11 29
 no relevant ideas 82 56

Use of the nectar in flowers:
 gathering/getting nectar (*specific*) 27 24
 gathering/getting food (*general*) 47 41
 eating nectar 3 4
 eating something 9 8
 no relevant response 14 23
 will take nectar/food back to hive 17 17
 nectar/food will be used to make honey 40 35

3. What are the features of a bee that help it to live and survive? Tell me as many as you can think of and I'll write them down for you.

Record student's ideas. Then point to each feature recorded and ask the following question:

4. How does this feature help the bee to live and survive?

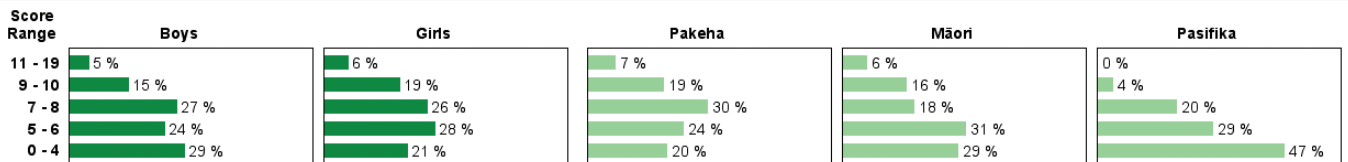
Mentioned: wings - to move around 82 94
 mouth - to eat, bite pests, manipulate wax, get nectar, brush pollen from body: two or more uses 2 6
 one use 37 46
 eyes - to see flowers, detect movement, see predators 42 58
 antennae - to smell, touch, locate 21 42
 hairs and other features - to capture, transport, remove pollen 10 23
 stomach/inside of body - for food, transport of food/nectar 5 3
 legs - carry pollen, move on flowers/surfaces 38 46
 stinger/sting - protect, discourage predators 56 75
 dance behaviours - to communicate directions and distance to nectar sources 2 4

Repeat question 4 until all features on the recording sheet have been discussed.

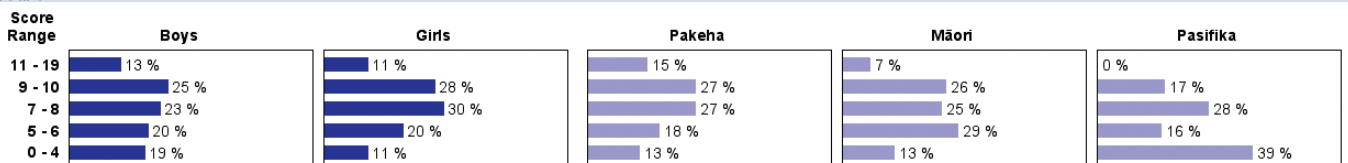
5. How do bees help fruit growers?
Explanation: comprehensive 1 4
 quite strong 6 10
 has general idea 15 18
 no relevant ideas 78 68
Total score: 11-19 6 12
 9-10 17 27
 7-8 26 26
 5-6 26 20
 0-4 25 15

Subgroup Analyses:

Year 4



Year 8



Commentary:

Most students revealed quite limited understanding of the role of bees in pollination and its importance in horticulture. Pasifika students were distinctly less successful than other students at both year levels.