

All the Buzz from the Hive

July 2005

Here we go again! Better a little late than never, right? We came through the winter in pretty good shape – lost a few fellow hives, but I'm sure our Keeper will make more again. We have total faith in her – she's just the best, you know?

That cold spell we had set us all back somewhat, it was so cold our Queen even stopped laying for about two weeks! She's more than made up for that now (looks like that mutiny plan won't have to go into effect). Our hives are full of brood and the nectar has started to add up. Looks like it will be a better honey crop this year – our Keeper will be pleased.

So, I hope you don't mind but I think that I will share a few tidbits and facts with you. See, it is starting to get really busy around here and if I tried to tell you everything that was new...well, I do believe that I would be kicked out of the hive for not doing my job. Not only would I be homeless (and oh so very cold come night time) but it would also take me several pages to explain our daily activity. I'm not bragging, but we are pretty efficient and active creatures! (..what is that saying I always hear people say...something about a bee...)

Please consider the following information as fun facts you can use to “wow” and impress your friends and family...

Did you know...?

- The bee fauna of the world is quite large – possibly 15–20 thousand species.
- The best-known social bee, the Western honeybee was brought here by European settlers and is *not* a native of North or South America.
- Scientists believe that honey found its way into the human diet some 2-3 million years ago.
- Cave paintings in Bicorp, Spain (dating back to 7,000 BC) show a figure on a ladder, leaning against a cliff wall, collecting honeycomb into a basket, surrounded by a cloud of bees.
- The earliest evidence of beekeeping, as opposed to bee hunting, appears in Egypt approximately 2400 BC.
- Honey was revered in Egypt both as a foodstuff and in religious rites. They baked with honey and served it with fruit.
- Because of its healing properties and its abilities as a preservative, honey was regarded as a powerful elixir, appropriate for feeding to sacred animals and for making offerings to the gods.
- Corpses could be preserved in honey, and beeswax and honey were used in making cosmetic preparations.
- During this period, references to honey can also be found in literature from China and India.

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