



AMAZING ANIMAL ARCHITECTURE: BEEHIVES

Determine the inner structure of a beehive.

Materials

A cup of "O" shaped cereal
Glue
Paper
Coloring materials

Procedure

- On your piece of paper draw a tall tree with one branch stretching across the page.
- Starting right underneath your branch, glue your cereal to the paper in several rows to create the round shape of your beehive. Make sure that there aren't any large gaps between your cereal pieces and that you have at least 4 rows of cereal in your hive.
- Label the top row(s) of cereal "Honey." Label the row(s) underneath that "Pollen." Label the next row(s) after that "Brooding" and the last row(s) "Queens."
- You may finish up your diagram by drawing extra details like flying bees, flowers, or the sun.

Results

You've created a diagram of a beehive!



Why?

Beehives are made using wax secreted from the abdomens of worker bees. They work this wax into hexagon-shaped "cells" and build the nest from top to bottom. A beehive can have over 100,000 cells! They use these cells to store over 40 lbs of honey it takes to survive the winter and house the 20,000 young they'll raise in the spring. The very top cells are used for storing honey and below that are the cells that store pollen, which is an important part of the bee's diet. The brooding cells are used to house worker bees, which are all female, and drone bees, which are male. There are special peanut-shaped cells at the bottom of the hive for raising young queens who will one day leave to start their own hive.