Name _____ Date _____

# Two Main Ideas, Key Details and Summary in an Informational Text: The Honeybee's Year

**Directions:** Read about one year in the life of the bees in a hive. Look back at the passage as you answer.

## The Honeybee's Year

A beehive in July and the same hive in deep winter hardly look alike. One can hum with tens of thousands of bees. The other holds a smaller crowd, packed into a ball. Both scenes belong to one plan for the year.

When flowers are in bloom, a colony of bees gets bigger. Longer spring days and fresh pollen and nectar set the queen to laying more eggs. On a busy day, she may lay about 1,500 eggs. By early summer, a hive can be crowded with bees. A crowded colony may even split in two. The old queen flies off with many of the worker bees to make a new home.

Much of the rest of the year points toward winter. In places with cold winters, bees can find little or no food then. So in summer, workers turn nectar into honey and store it for the cold months. As nectar and pollen grow scarce in fall, the queen lays fewer eggs and the number of bees drops. Workers push the male bees, called drones, out of the hive. That leaves more winter honey for the others.

In cold weather, the bees pack together in a ball known as a cluster. To warm it, they make their flight muscles twitch without moving their wings. Bees on the chilly outside trade places with bees inside. A summer worker usually lives about six weeks. Some workers that grow up in fall live up to six months, so they are still around in spring to help the colony grow again.

**1.** Which pair of sentences gives the two main ideas of "The Honeybee's Year"?

A. A hive in July can hold tens of thousands of bees. Bees in places with cold winters find little or no food in winter.

B. Animals of many kinds change how they live as seasons pass. Honeybees are insects that live in large groups.

C. A colony grows while flowers are in bloom. Workers turn nectar into honey in summer.

D. A colony grows while flowers are in bloom. Much of the rest of its year is aimed at winter.

**2.** One crowded colony can become two. Which detail does the passage give to show how that happens?

A. The new queen in the old home mates when she is about one week old.

B. The old queen flies off with many of the worker bees.

C. The bees that leave gather in a cluster while scouts look for a home.

D. Before a colony splits, the queen lays more eggs that become drones.

**3.** The bees make their winter food last. Which detail from the passage shows one way they do this?

A. In fall, bees seal cracks in the hive to keep cold air out.

B. In deep cold, bees stay in the cluster, so their honey must be close by.

C. A colony in the North generally needs about 90 pounds of stored honey for winter.

D. Workers push the drones out of the hive.

**4.** Think about the bees once they are in a winter cluster. Which two details does the passage give about what they do there? Select two.

☐ A. They make their flight muscles twitch to warm the cluster.

☐ B. The cluster spreads out or tightens as the temperature changes.

☐ C. On a warm day, some fly out of the hive for a short time.

☐ D. The inside of the cluster can reach up to 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

☐ E. Bees on the outside trade places with bees inside.

**5.** The passage compares worker bees raised in summer with those raised in fall. According to the passage, how do the longer lives of the fall workers help the colony?

A. They help the colony find a new home before the cold comes.

B. They raise many young bees all winter long.

C. They gather most of the nectar for the winter honey.

D. They are still alive in spring to help the colony grow again.

**6.** Based on the passage, why does the number of bees drop in fall?

A. Many of the workers fly away to warmer places.

B. Some of the bees freeze on the coldest nights.

C. The queen lays fewer eggs as nectar and pollen grow scarce.

D. Workers stop caring for the young bees in the hive.

**7.** Which choice is the best summary of "The Honeybee's Year"?

A. A colony spends much of the year getting ready for winter. It stores food, it shrinks, and its bees form a tight ball when cold comes.

B. A colony grows through spring and early summer and may split in two. From summer on, it gets ready for winter and then crowds together to keep insects away from its honey.

C. Longer days and fresh food set the queen to laying more eggs. By early summer the hive can be crowded, and the colony may split in two.

D. A colony grows through spring and early summer and may split in two. From summer on, it gets ready for winter and then crowds together to last through the cold.