Honey Bee
HONEY BEE

FAMILY: Apidae
ORDER: Hymenoptera

IDENTIFICATION CLUES

- worker bees are 1/2 inch long; queen bee is larger and rarely seen
- thorax is brown and fuzzy with hairs
- abdomen is brown with yellow or yellow-orange stripes
- legs are dark and hairy and the hind legs have pollen sacks which are often loaded with yellow pollen

Where to Look:
Honey bees are often seen feeding on lawn weeds such as clover and many other flowering herbs and shrubs. The hives can be found in hollow trees or commercial hives.

Who Eats It?
The larva of other types of bees are often found in the hives of honey bees feeding off the rich honey or the honey bee larvae themselves; other predators include honey-loving mammals such as bears.

What It Eats
Adult honey bees feed on nectar and pollen and the larvae are fed “bee bread”, a mixture of honey and pollen.

Did You Know
Honey bees have a fascinating social structure and many interesting behaviors including the ability to communicate with each other. Honey bees use complex dances to tell other bees the exact location of good nectar sources.

Role in the Ecosystem
Honey bees are extremely important pollinators of many different kinds of plants including many of our crop plants.

ORDER: Hymenoptera

LIFE CYCLE
COMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS
Honey Bees live in colonies made up of the queen that lays the eggs, drones that fertilize the eggs, and workers that collect nectar and pollen and feed larvae, and virgin females that eventually leave to start new colonies of their own.