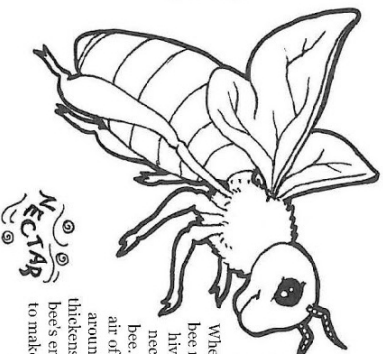


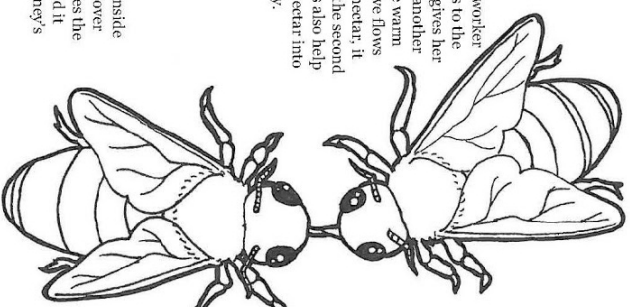
1 The worker bee inserts her short, straw-like tongue (called a *proboscis*) into the flower and uses it to suck the sweet nectar out of the flower. The nectar goes into a special stomach she has, called a *honey sac*.



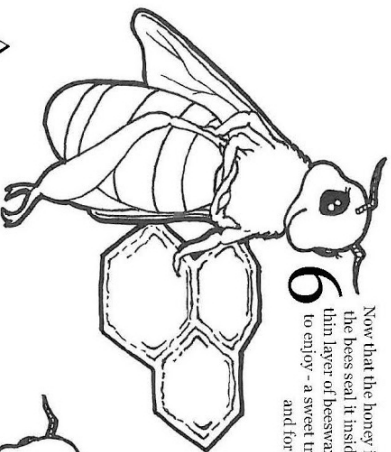
2 Once the bee has filled her honey sac with nectar, she flies back to her hive. On her way home, special enzymes inside her honey sac change the nectar to make it more nutritious for the bees - and for us!



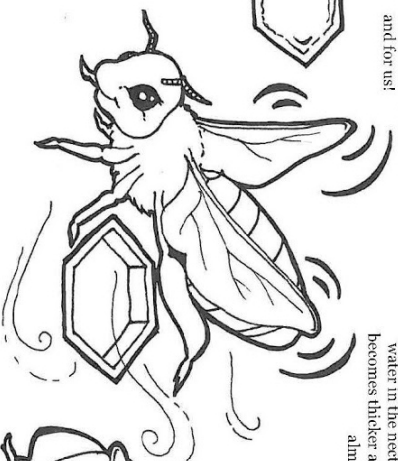
3 When the worker bee returns to the hive, she gives her nectar to another bee. As the warm air of the hive flows around the nectar, it thickens, and the second bee's enzymes also help to make the nectar into honey.



6 Now that the honey is nice and thick, the bees seal it inside the cell with a thin layer of beeswax. Now it's ready to enjoy - a sweet treat for the bees and for us!



5 The bees in the hive fan their wings inside the hive, making a breeze that flows over the nectar in the open cells. This causes the water in the nectar to evaporate, and it becomes thicker and thicker - the honey's almost done!



4 The second worker bee carries the nectar further inside the hive and puts it into an open cell in the honeycomb.

