

BEE-HIND THE HONEY



Queen bees lay up to 1,500 eggs a day, and can lay up to one million eggs in a lifetime



Honey bees are larger and can forage for longer than native bees. They create strong competition with native bees in some cases



Sometimes bee hives are destroyed once the honey is collected in autumn because it can be cheaper than feeding the bees over winter

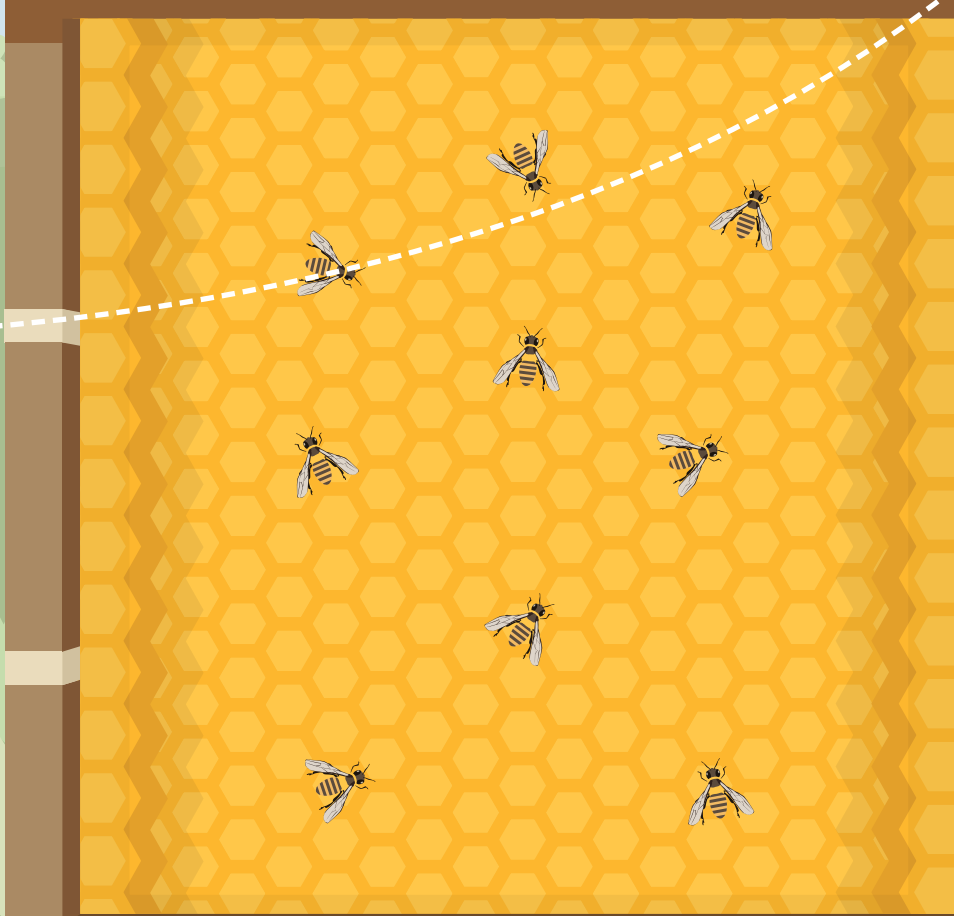
The way humans have raised bees has probably made them more susceptible to disease and parasites (like the varroa mite)

Commercial beekeepers don't want swarms, so they clip the queen's wings, or kill them every couple of years and replace them

Honey bees dance to communicate, letting other bees know where a good source of flowers can be found



Transport is stressful for the colony and can shorten their lifespan



NZ NATIVE BEES

There are 28 known species of native New Zealand bees.

Native bees are smaller than honey bees and usually black.

They are mostly solitary and dig tunnels under ground.

Native bees pollinate many native plants, but are also found in some fruit and vegetable crops.

Bees make honey for the colony to survive over winter

A honey bee colony can contain up to 60,000 bees

Normally queens may lead a part of the colony to a new hive. This is called a swarm

A single worker honey bee produces around one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime

