



The Desert Speaks

#909 Killer Bees?

Teacher Information Sheet

Program Description

Africanized honeybees are here to stay. This program explores how this aggressive species of honeybee arrived in this country and why it's important that we learn more about them. This show tracks where these "killer bees" came from, how long it took them to establish their colonies, and highlights the differences between Africanized and European honeybees. This newcomer to the southwestern United States has a well-deserved reputation for ferocity, and they are not going away. The program examines how far north these ferocious bees may migrate and looks at what can you do to prepare and protect yourself.

Teaching Tips

1. Discuss vocabulary words
2. Introduce the episode by giving a brief summary of the program and telling students what information you would like for them to gain from viewing the program.
3. Allow time at the conclusion of the program for discussion and the completion of the *Student Viewing Sheet*.
4. Investigate the related web sites listed below.

Vocabulary Words

- **swarming** a body of honeybees that emigrate from a hive and fly off together, accompanied by a queen, to start a new colony
- **feral** colony a wild colony, not domesticated

Related Web Sites

Africanized Honey Bees

<http://www.sensei.com/users/alwine/AfricanBee.html>

Africanized Honey Bee Fact Sheet

<http://www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~ohioline/hyg-fact/2000/2124.html>

"Attack of the "Killer Bees"

<http://www.desertusa.com/mag98/sep/stories/kbees.html>

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Student Viewing Sheet

Use information in the video to answer the following questions.

1. Africanized Bees look just like regular _____ .
2. When a colony of European Bees are in danger, 5-10 percent of the bees will come out to defend their colony. When a colony of African Bees are in danger, _____ percent of the bees will come out to defend their colony.
3. Who brought honeybees to the North American continent? _____
4. Why were bees from the tropics of Africa brought to South America? _____

5. A bee colony reproduces by _____ .
6. European bees swarm and reproduce once or twice a season, African bees do it as often as _____ times in a season.
7. Name 3 states in the U.S. in which the African bees have established themselves. _____

8. African bees will normally attack a person in the _____ .
9. What 2 things can a person do if bees attack him? _____

10. What color clothing offers the most protection from bee attacks? _____

Match each bee with its description

- _____ infertile female bees who do the work in the colony
- _____ larger male bees who mate with the Queen bee
- _____ the female bee that lays all of the eggs

*** drones * queen * workers ***

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Answer Key

Short Answers

1. honeybees
2. 50%
3. European settlers in the 1600-1700's
4. because the European honeybees did not do well in the South American tropics
5. swarming
6. 10
7. California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Nevada
8. face
9. white or yellow

Matching

workers

drones

queen