

**Directions:** *You have 4 minutes to read the selection and answer the questions. Do not begin reading until your teacher gives the signal.*

## Bee Smart's Work

Bee Smart explores the fields outside the hive to gather pollen and nectar with which to feed the larvae and to make honey for use in the winter. (The bees don't really make their honey for man, you see.) Bee Smart deposits pollen in the tiny pollen baskets on the inside of her hind legs. The nectar which she sips from the flowers goes into her honey sac inside her thorax. Before she gets back to the hive, the nectar has begun to turn to honey in her body. Bee Smart transfers the honey from her sac to the cells of the comb.

After depositing the honey in the comb, Bee Smart fans it with her wings until it is cooled to the proper thickness, something like the way you cool and beat fudge to make it hard. Then she seals the honey by putting a wax lid over the cells of the comb.

Bee Smart makes many trips to the fields for pollen and nectar, but amazingly, she and the other workers usually gather from only one kind of flower at a time. If the bees are making clover honey, they bypass the other blossoms and suck nectar only from clover. This is important, because flowers will not produce seeds unless they receive pollen from the same kind of plant as themselves. The bees bring them this pollen as they go from blossom to blossom.

Bee Smart is wise because God has made her that way. She is doing the work God has created her for.