



presented by **Science a-z** a division of Learning A-Z

Scientists Search for Clues to a Bee Mystery

Bees are very important to farmers and their crops. Bees help plants make seeds. Then these seeds grow into new plants.

Last year, beekeepers saw something strange. The bees were leaving their hives. But they were not coming back! Sometimes, the bees left their queen bee. That was strange. Bees usually take good care of the queen.

No one knows why the bees left the hive, or where they went.

To find out what makes bees leave their hives, scientists studied fifty-one groups of bees.

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Writing Prompt:

What might this bee do next?



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Bee Mystery

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Some groups left their hives, and some did not.

The scientists learned that the bees that left their hives had a virus. The virus killed the bees.

The scientists are not sure if the virus is what makes the bees leave. There may be other reasons. But for now, the virus is something beekeepers and scientists are studying.

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Compare and Contrast



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A bee

◀ Bees

- eat nectar
- can sting once
- make honey

Wasps ▶

- eat other insects
- can sting many times
- don't make honey



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A wasp

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Bees find pollen, fly back to their hive, and show other bees where the pollen is.