



When young rabbits start to go outside, they recognise the chemicals in safe non-poisonous plants because they have already tasted them in their mother's milk.

The dominant bucks will fight to be the boss in the warren. They sometimes use their wee as a weapon, spraying each other!

The better a group of rabbits gets on together, the better they can work together to stay safe when they are above ground.

If the warren gets too crowded, the strongest rabbits will chase away weaker ones, who will have to find somewhere else to live.

The warren tunnels aren't straight, because the rabbits burrow their way round rocks and hard patches of soil.

Inside the warren there will be a nest site, where the dominant doe has babies. She will fight other does if they try to get into her nest site, boxing them with her paws.

The nest site is lined with grass, soft moss and rabbit tummy fur.

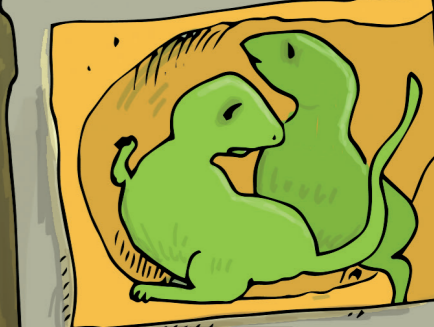
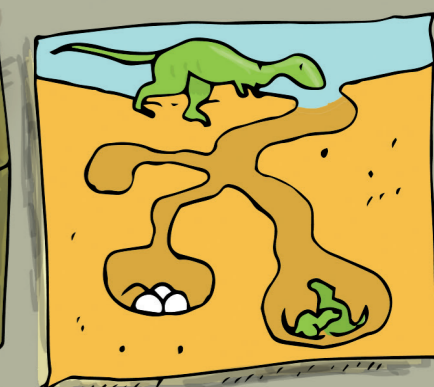
It's usually the female rabbits, called does, that dig the warren using their strong legs.

Rabbits in a warren will spend time grooming each other with their tongues, teeth and claws.

Rabbits communicate with each other by humming, honking, squeaking and growling.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some dinosaurs used to dig! A 110-million-year-old dinosaur burrow has been discovered in southeastern Australia.



I MADE IT MYSELF!

Some animals don't need to look for much material to build their homes. They make their own! Here are some of the masters at making their own versions of cement, rope and glue.

When the silkworm is ready to turn into a moth it makes a cocoon for itself to live in.

CATERPILLAR CLOTH

Silk cloth is made using threads created by the little silkworm, the silk moth caterpillar. In China, silkworms have been farmed for their threads for over 5,000 years.




Silkworm cocoons are boiled, and then unravelled to make silk thread for weaving. Nothing is wasted as the boiled silkworms are then eaten. In fact, they are a delicacy!

Legend has it that 5,000 years ago a Chinese empress discovered silk when a silkworm cocoon dropped into her teacup and unravelled.

WORLDWIDE WEBS

Some spiders make silk threads to build webs. The liquid silk is made in the spider's abdomen (the fat part of its body), and then squeezed out of tiny holes, like toothpaste from a tube. It hardens as soon as it meets the air outside.

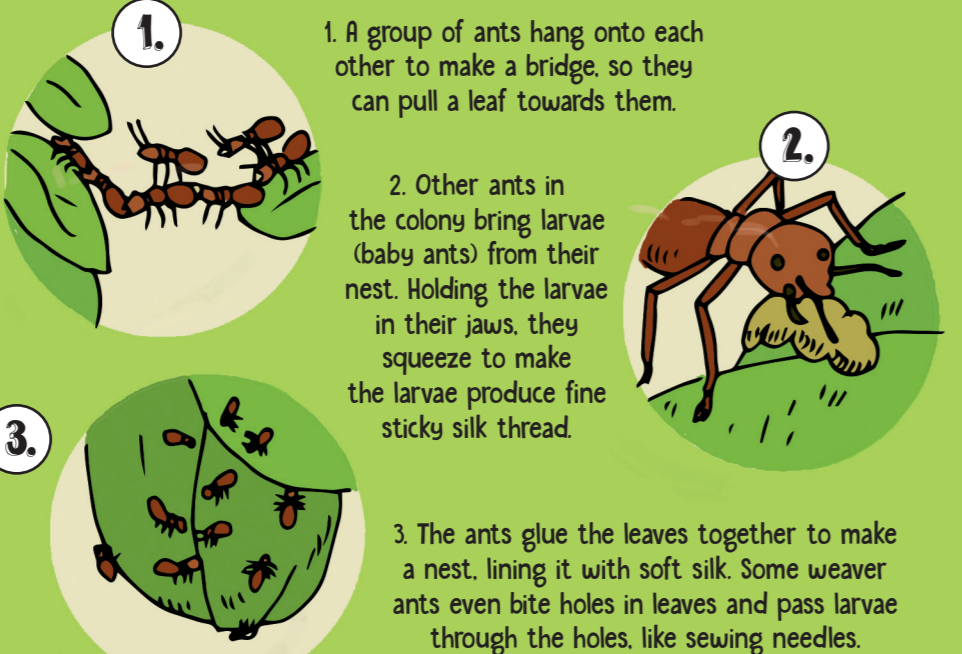


A spider can make dry silk threads or sticky ones covered in body glue.

INSECT SEWING

Weaver ants live in tropical treetops. They make nests by glueing or sewing clumps of leaves together, using their own babies as glue guns! Here's how:

1. A group of ants hang onto each other to make a bridge, so they can pull a leaf towards them.
2. Other ants in the colony bring larvae (baby ants) from their nest. Holding the larvae in their jaws, they squeeze to make the larvae produce fine sticky silk thread.
3. The ants glue the leaves together to make a nest, lining it with soft silk. Some weaver ants even bite holes in leaves and pass larvae through the holes, like sewing needles.




IT'S BUZZING IN HERE!


Bees squeeze wax out of their bodies to make a honeycomb - lots of six-sided cells joined together. The cells are tiny containers for bringing up baby bees or storing food.

BEE RANKS


Bees work as a team, each with their own job.



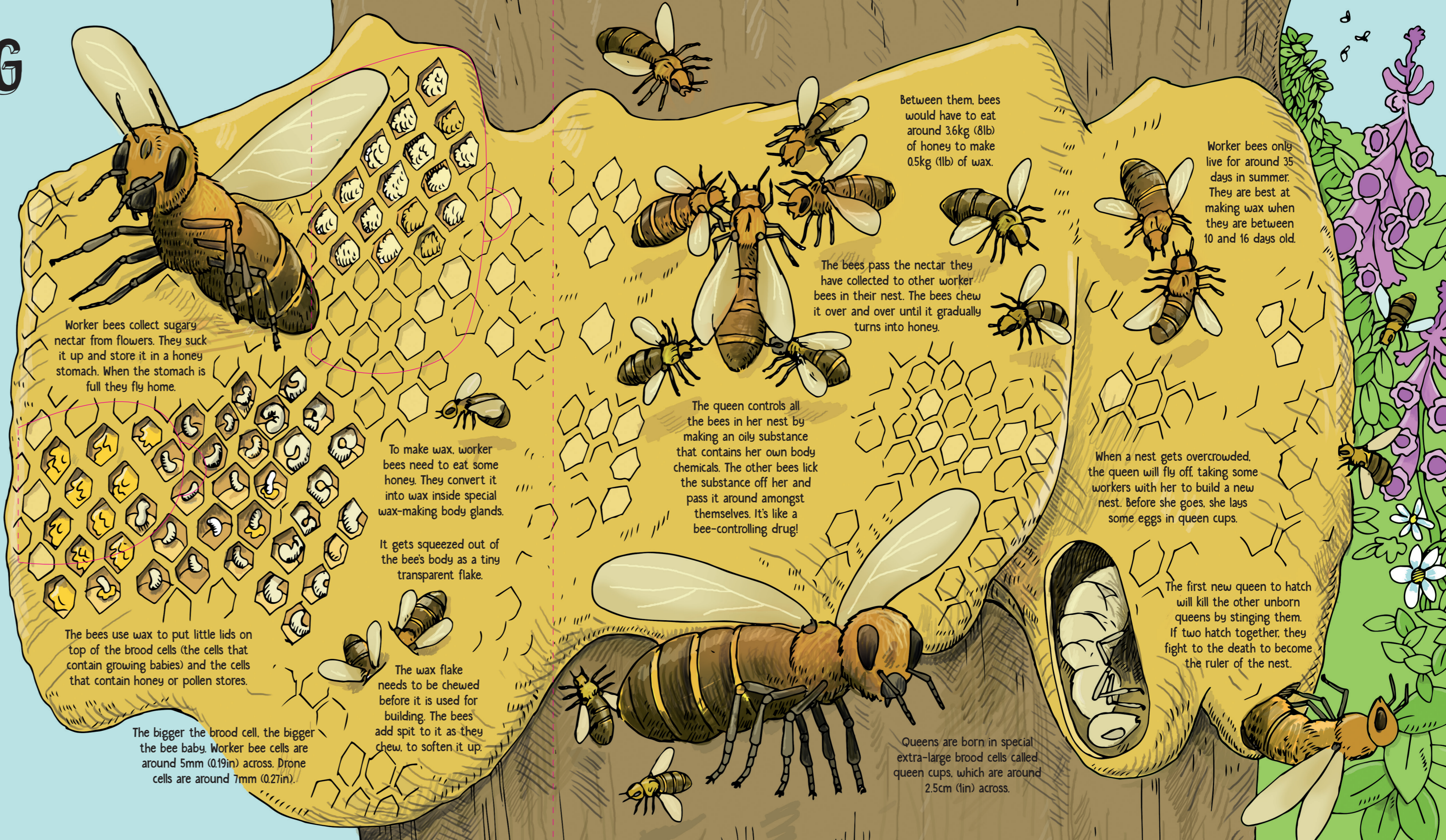
THE WORKER BEES gather nectar and pollen for food and build the hive. They guard the nest and look after the bee larvae, too.



THE QUEEN is bigger than all the other bees. She is the only bee who lays eggs in a nest. She is fed and cleaned by her servants, the worker bees.



THE DRONES are male bees who mate with the queen. They don't do any work.



Worker bees collect sugary nectar from flowers. They suck it up and store it in a honey stomach. When the stomach is full they fly home.

To make wax, worker bees need to eat some honey. They convert it into wax inside special wax-making body glands. It gets squeezed out of the bee's body as a tiny transparent flake.

The wax flake needs to be chewed before it is used for building. The bees add spit to it as they chew, to soften it up.

The bigger the brood cell, the bigger the bee baby. Worker bee cells are around 5mm (0.19in) across. Drone cells are around 7mm (0.27in).

Between them, bees would have to eat around 3.6kg (8lb) of honey to make 0.5kg (1lb) of wax.

The bees pass the nectar they have collected to other worker bees in their nest. The bees chew it over and over until it gradually turns into honey.

The queen controls all the bees in her nest by making an oily substance that contains her own body chemicals. The other bees lick the substance off her and pass it around amongst themselves. It's like a bee-controlling drug!

When a nest gets overcrowded, the queen will fly off, taking some workers with her to build a new nest. Before she goes, she lays some eggs in queen cups.

The first new queen to hatch will kill the other unborn queens by stinging them. If two hatch together, they fight to the death to become the ruler of the nest.

Queens are born in special extra-large brood cells called queen cups, which are around 2.5cm (1in) across.

Worker bees only live for around 35 days in summer. They are best at making wax when they are between 10 and 16 days old.