

# Bee Stings

## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What do you know about bee stings?
- What should you do if you or your child gets a bee sting?



[Images.nbii.gov](https://images.nbii.gov) image

### Definitions:

- Avoid – to stay away from
- Hives – red bumps on the body caused by an allergy

## Reading

14 When it's sunny and warm, people love to spend time outside. Sadly, spending time  
32 outdoors can mean the risk of a bee sting. Most stings are caused by yellow jackets; but bees,  
38 wasps and hornets can all sting.

56 To avoid bee stings, shoes should always be worn outside. It is best to wear dull or light  
68 color clothing. Bees like bright colors. Children should not play near flowers.

82 If you or your child get stung, there are some things you should do:

- 103 1. Look for the stinger. If you see the black dot, scrape it off but do not try to squeeze it  
107 out of the skin.
- 126 2. Rub the sting with a cotton ball that has baking soda and water on it for 20 minutes.
- 139 3. If the sting still hurts, put ice on it for 10 minutes.
- 147 4. Pain reliever can be taken right away.

166 Usually the pain from a sting stops in a couple hours. The place of the sting may be swollen  
187 for 24 hours. Call a doctor if the swelling lasts more than one day or if it is very painful. If  
205 someone is stung many times, he may have diarrhea or vomit. He may also have a headache or  
206 fever.

224 If a sting causes an allergic reaction, it will be hard to breathe or swallow. This person may  
244 also pass out or get hives. If this happens, call 911 right away. For some people bee stings can be  
254 **fatal**. Get help quickly if you think it is needed.

## Understanding

1. What causes most stings? What else can sting? \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. When should a doctor be called for a sting? When should 911 be called? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. How can bee stings be avoided? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. What should be done to treat a bee sting? (List at least two things.) \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. What does the word “**fatal**” mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Writing

Option A: Retell the reading in your own words.

Option B: Write about a bee sting you have experienced.

Option C: What new information have you learned? How will you use it?

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