

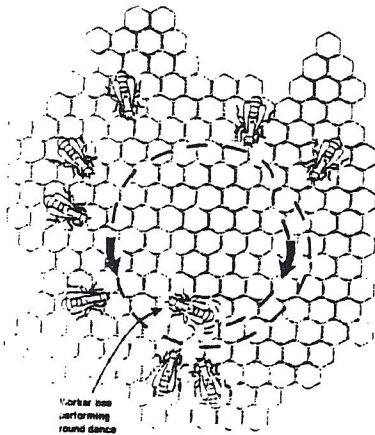
# Honey Bees - Society



## Honey, I'd Love to Dance

Honey bees communicate with each other by dancing. After a honey bee has found food she tells the other bees when she returns to the hive. The bee will dance on the honeycomb, while the other bees feel the dancing bee and learn where the food is. By smelling the dancing bee and getting a taste of her load of nectar, the other bees can tell what type of flower she has visited. Different dances are used when the food is close to or far away from the hive. Bees have receptors on their feelers and legs which they use to feel the dance.

*There are several bee dances, but the most common are the round dance and the waggle dance.*

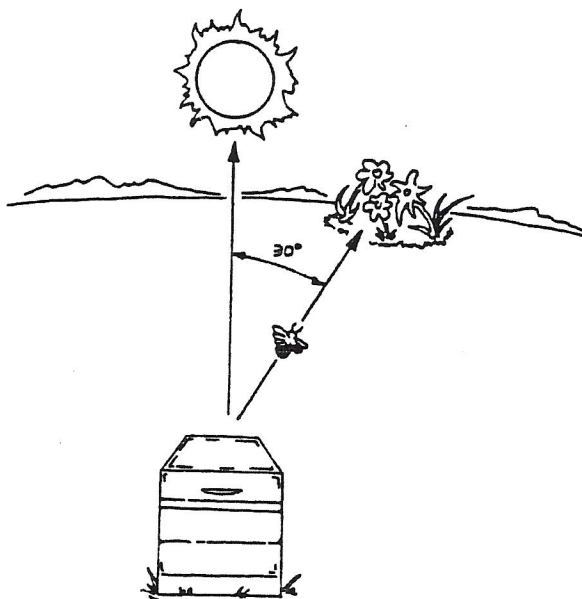
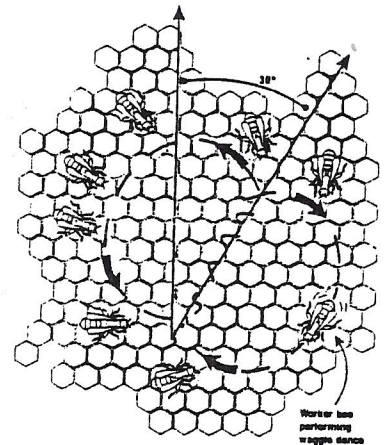


### Round Dance

When food is close to the hive (less than 100 yards), a worker bee performs the round dance. She goes round and round, first one way and then the other. The round dance does not show the exact location of the flowers so fellow worker bees must fly out in many directions looking for them.

### Waggle Dance

If the flowers are more than 100 yards away from the hive, the returning bee performs the waggle dance. The bee dances a half circle in one direction, turns, and runs straight while wagging her abdomen. Then she dances a half circle in the other direction. These two half circles form a figure eight.



If the food is in the same direction as the sun, the central run of the dance is straight up the comb. If the food is to the left or right of the sun, the bee alters the direction of the dance by the correct amount to the left or right of the upright line.

The distance between the hive and the food is communicated by the speed of the dance and the buzzing sound made by the dancing bee. The faster the worker dances, the closer the food. The waggle dance shows both location and distance of the flowers, so the bees know where to fly.