

Topic: Rapid species loss

Time: Week 1, ~25 minutes;
Week 2, ~30 minutes

Objective: To understand that as humans there are choices we can make to help other species.

Resources for Teachers:

- [Bee hotels in Paris & Books for Children](#)
- [What You Need to Know About Bees and How You Can Help to Protect Them](#)

Supplies for Week 1:

- One clean 18.6 oz or 18.8 oz can per participant.
Tip- Find a can opener that leaves smooth edges so participants reduce the risk of cutting themselves.
- Enough acrylic paint in a variety of colors to paint the cans (3-4 coats)
- Mod Podge ([Made Everyday with Dana](#) says equal parts Mod Podge and paint can be mixed to help it stick on the can better)
- Baby food jars to mix/hold the paint
- One small foam paint brush for each participant (small enough to dip into the baby food jar)
- Newspaper to cover your work surface

Prep work:

- This activity can be completed with repurposed materials, so if you don't already have a space to collect scrap paper and clean cans, you'll want to start.
- Participants should paint their cans one week prior to constructing their bee condo
- Adults can prepare paper, ~30 sheets per participant cut to various heights, not longer than the height of the can
- Communicate to parents that you'll be participating in this activity, and give them the option to opt-out if their child has a bee allergy.
- Have a backup plan for participants who might opt-out
- Select a children's [book](#) about the decline in bee species

Week 1 Welcome/Introduction:

Around the world, we're experiencing a significant decline in bee species. This is a problem because humans need bees to pollinate plants that we depend on for food. As humans, we have a special responsibility to help bees and other insects. Over the next two weeks we'll be building habitats for bees.

Opening Prayer: See [Prayer Resource page](#)

Scripture or Reading: See [Prayer Resource page](#)

- Read a [book](#) about the decline in bee species.

Notes for Teachers:

According to Rusty Burlew, a master beekeeper and author of the HoneyBeeSuite blog, "...if you really want to help native bees...you need only remember three things: plant more flowers, use fewer pesticides, and leave some areas undisturbed." Burlew suggests when considering habitats for bees that it's important to consider biodiversity and that by having tunnels of various sizes your habitat can appeal to a variety of bee species.



EDN Staff Visits Paris' Insect Hotel

Supplies for Week 2:

- One painted can per participant
- A variety of pencils and markers of different widths for each participant
- ~30 sheets of paper per participant cut to various heights, not longer than the height of the can
- Two toilet paper rolls per participant
- Glue
- Tape
- Yarn (2 feet per participant)

Week 1 Activity:

- Cover the work surface with newspaper
- Pass out one clean 18.6 oz or 18.8 oz can to each participant.
- Give each participant an empty baby food jar and paint brush
- Have children select their paint color, and add equal parts paint and Mod Podge to the jar and mix
- Paint the can (3-4 coats)
- Move cans to a safe place, label the can with the child's name and allow to dry

Closing Prayer: See [Prayer Resource page](#)

Week 2 Activity:

Opening Prayer: See [Prayer Resource page](#)

Scripture or Reading: See Prayer Resource page

- Each student should find their can from the week before
- Using a variety of pencils, markers, etc. of various widths, take your paper and roll ~5 times around, and adhere it with a piece of tape for ~30 sheets of paper.
- Add a thin layer of glue to the bottom of your can and, adhere the toilet paper tubes.
- Fill in the spaces with your rolled sheets of paper.
- Tie the yarn around the bee condo and find a secure, sunny spot to hang it about 3 feet off the ground

Closing:

Ask the children what they have learned today. Why is protecting bees important to our faith?

Closing Prayer: See [Prayer Resource page](#)