



# YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative  
2023 Volume V: Nature-inspired Solutions to Disease Problems

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## **Biodiversity and Bees in the Primary Classroom**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 23.05.01, published September 2023  
by Carol Boynton

In this four-week unit, young students are introduced to the concept of biodiversity and how honeybees play an essential role globally in maintaining and preserving it. To introduce this complex topic to Kindergarteners, the unit begins with a read-aloud, *Please Please the Bees* by Gerald Kelley. Discussions center on challenges bees encounter, including their recent problems with varroa mites. Students understand the structure of the bee's body, create honeycomb models, learn bee dances, and design and construct bee boxes, along with joining in to help save the bees by planting nectar-producing plants.

(Developed for Science, grade K; recommended for Science, grades K-2)

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