

Name _____

Date _____

Cite Evidence and Draw Conclusions

When you draw conclusions, you make judgments or take a position on a topic. To draw conclusions in an informational text, follow these steps:

- Look for statements in the text that support your conclusion.
- Consider your own experience and knowledge about the topic.
- Make a judgement based on evidence and your own knowledge.

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

In recent years, beekeepers across North America have reported alarming losses in their honeybee colonies. Some hives lose 30-50% of their bees during winter months, far higher than the typical 10-15% loss. Scientists have observed that affected bees often abandon their hives completely, leaving behind honey, larvae, and even the queen bee. This phenomenon, called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), has puzzled researchers.

Several factors may contribute to CCD. Pesticides used in agriculture can weaken bees' immune systems and affect their ability to navigate back to their hives. Climate change has altered flowering patterns, reducing the variety of food sources available to bees.

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Additionally, parasites like Varroa mites have become more widespread, attacking bee larvae and spreading viruses throughout colonies.

The economic impact is significant. Bees pollinate crops worth billions of dollars annually, including almonds, apples, and blueberries. Without sufficient bee populations, food production could decline dramatically, leading to higher prices and reduced variety in grocery stores.

What conclusion can you draw about the health of honeybee populations?

•Evidence from the text:

•Your own knowledge/experience:

•Your conclusion:

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Cite Evidence and Draw Conclusions-Answer Key

- Evidence from the text:

Beekeepers report alarming losses of 30-50% of bees during winter (much higher than typical 10-15%); bees abandon hives completely; Colony Collapse Disorder is puzzling researchers.

- Your own knowledge/experience:

Answers may vary.

- Your conclusion:

Honeybee populations are in serious decline and facing a health crisis that threatens their survival.