



# Are Bees Important?

## Writing Assignment

### Materials

Common classroom materials

### Five Articles:

Print articles for classrooms that are not 1-1 device

Insure you can access articles and share articles with students

### Introduce Assignment (5 minutes):

Why do people, when worried about oxygen levels in the atmosphere, focus on protecting rainforest instead the oceans? How much of this is because it's easier to get people's attention focused on cute rainforest animals, than microscopic phytoplankton that provide 60% of the planet's free oxygen?

One overlooked area of concern be the decline in insect populations. We tend to think of any insect as a "bug" and give it negative connotations, especially the stinging kind. But without the stinging insects, the world would be a much different place.

Instruct students the purpose of their reading is to determine what Florida, as a state, should do:

1. Florida should provide aid to the bees
2. Bees can't be saved so Florida should help other pollinators
3. No reason to help because they are coming back and will be fine

Break students into four groups, each group gets one of the following articles to read:

### Article 1:

Bees: How important are they and what would happen if they went extinct?

<https://theconversation.com/bees-how-important-are-they-and-what-would-happen-if-they-went-extinct-121272>

**Article 2:**

The Risks and Dangers of Bee Extinction:

<https://www.fairplanet.org/story/the-risks-and-dangers-of-bee-extinction/>

**Article 3:**

Honeybee population has improved, but Florida beekeeper says more progress needed:

<https://mynews13.com/fl/orlando/news/2021/10/18/beekeeper-keeps-honeybee-rescue-operation>

**Article 4:**

Five pollinators beyond honeybees:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/techniques/five-pollinators-beyond-honeybees>

**Article 5:**

Food, soil, water: How the extinction of insects would transform our planet:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/nov/10/food-soil-water-how-the-extinction-of-insects-would-transform-our-planet>

Have students read articles and find information. Put the information in a table similar to the one below:

Problem/Prospect (1-3)	Priority	Probable Causes	Possible Solutions

Have students document, then discuss priorities, causes and solutions.

Bring back whole class. Set up three areas of your room based on what Florida should do and let students pick their spot. Students, one at a time\*, are then allowed to try to persuade other students to join their group. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE NOTES DURING THIS PROCESS.

**Time:** often the rest of class. Time permitting discuss other attempts to control animal populations their impacts to humans (mosquitos, hydrilla, rats, etc.)

**Writing Assignment:** to be done as classwork/homework and are allowed to use any table or notes they took. Each paragraph should contain information from articles or class discussion.

**Possible Evaluations:**

Collect Tables

Participation

Written assignment

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\*(For new teachers in particular) Have a one of a kind thing (stress ball, plush toy) that the speaker holds when they speak. Teach that if you want your say, you must give others that same respect. This works very well.

