Wild Bees and Fun with Words

Can you decode the words to answer the riddle?

Unscramble the words below; each one is a food featured in the book and made in part by wild bees. When you've finished, add each numbered letter into the mystery word to answer the riddle.

Riddle question:
What is a bee's favorite sport?

ESPEPRPO

NCOIRLTA

OOTTSEAM (1)

PLSAES (5)

UFLLWACREOI (2)

GSGE (6)

EBEULBRISRE

AHSUQA

GPTNALEG (3)

EFBE (4)

Riddle answer: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Blue orchard mason bees (Osmia lignaria) are an Oregon wild bee that excels at pollinating fruit crops, and they are managed for this purpose.

Wild bees are not kept by people, but live on their own. They started to appear in Oregon after continents began to spread apart around 60 million years ago. They evolved together with flowering plants in a process called co-evolution. Over millions of years, these bees and plants helped each other flourish in the forests, savanna and deserts of Oregon. Wild bees are important for the pollination of native plants as well as crops, which are often closely related.

Most wild bees are solitary and nest underground. There are hundreds of different species. Some are smaller in size than a grain of rice and some have not been identified yet. Wild bees help native plants reproduce. Many farmers rent boxes of managed honey bees to pollinate their crops, but wild bees can help pollinate food crops, too! In fact, they help make the foods featured in this book.

The smallest bees in Oregon are the fairy bees, genus Perdita. They are only as long as a grain of rice! ---->

Perdita, enlarged

Word Bank: Apples, beef, blueberries, cauliflower, cilantro, eggplant, eggs, peppers, squash, tomatoes.

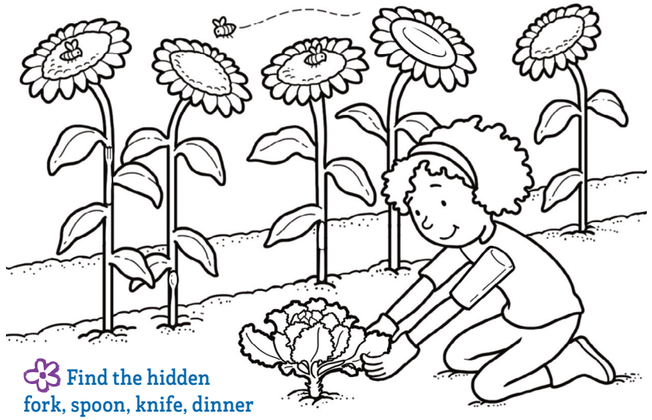
Create a silly, nonsensical, preposterous, funny, laughable story

Find a partner. Choose one person to be the "reporter" and one to be the "author." Without reading the story aloud, the reporter asks the author to think of a word for each prompt under the blank lines below. The reporter writes in the author's words. Then have the reporter read the story out loud!

Did you know that only _____ (adjective) bees sting? These bees use their _____ (part of their body) to _____ (verb). This is the same part of the body they use to lay _____ (plural noun). While almost all bees can _____ (same verb) multiple times, the _____ (adjective) bee stings only once. That is because when a _____ (same adjective) bee _____ (last verb again) its _____ (noun), along with a special venom sack, _____ (verb) off the bee and _____ (verb) into you. This _____ (verb) the bee. Although bee stings _____ (verb) for _____ (number) minutes, most people are not harmed by them. However, some _____ (plural noun) are allergic to them and as a result have to be _____ (adjective) around bees. Bees only _____ (verb) to _____ (verb) themselves from _____ (noun) that want to eat them. Since most _____ (plural noun) don't threaten bees, they rarely _____ (verb) them. When bees do _____ (same verb) people, it's often because _____ (name of a person in the room) swatted at the bee or _____ (verb) on it. Most of the _____ (noun) it's safe to observe _____ (plural noun) around you.

Explore the bees of Oregon and how they help make our food!

Many wild bees rely on native plants, and thus many native plants we eat rely on certain wild bees. Native plants evolved over thousands of years in defined habitats. There, they live in harmony (like a friendship) with the environment's other species, soil, weather, etc. This **interdependence** allows them to thrive without human care.



Find the hidden fork, spoon, knife, dinner plate and drinking glass

Color in the illustration. Add a caption (short description of what is happening in the photo) using the text from the book to support your answer:

_____

Visit **FoodHero.org** for a tasty **Kale Salad** recipe with sunflower seeds