

# Pelican Pete's Backyard Adventures™

Nature Discoveries and Outdoor Fun

## Bee Builders

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are only a few days in the lives of worker honeybees (*apis mellifera*) when they are able to produce beeswax. During this time, glands convert digested honey into wax and extrude it in small flakes. The wax is then chewed and mixed with saliva enzymes to make it pliable. With this construction material, bees build and repair an engineering marvel of hexagonal (six-sided) cylinders for housing young bees and storing honey.

Man has found uses for beeswax too, including holiday candles!



**PELICAN PETE**  
Helping Children and Nature Meet

### GO OUTSIDE!

Look in your yard and neighborhood for wildlife constructions. Can you see bird nests? Insect cocoons? Burrow openings? What materials were used, and what shape are they? Does the shape serve a purpose? How do you know? Note what you find.

Play Bee Builders! While one counts to 30, players quickly gather as many building materials as they can, such as stones, sticks, pinecones, and nuts. Each player then constructs a building to house small wildlife. Give your home a name, and see who moves in!

*Sweet honeybees make building wax  
For baby rooms and storage racks;  
Share some too for candle lights,  
Glowing bright on festive nights!*

