





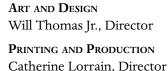
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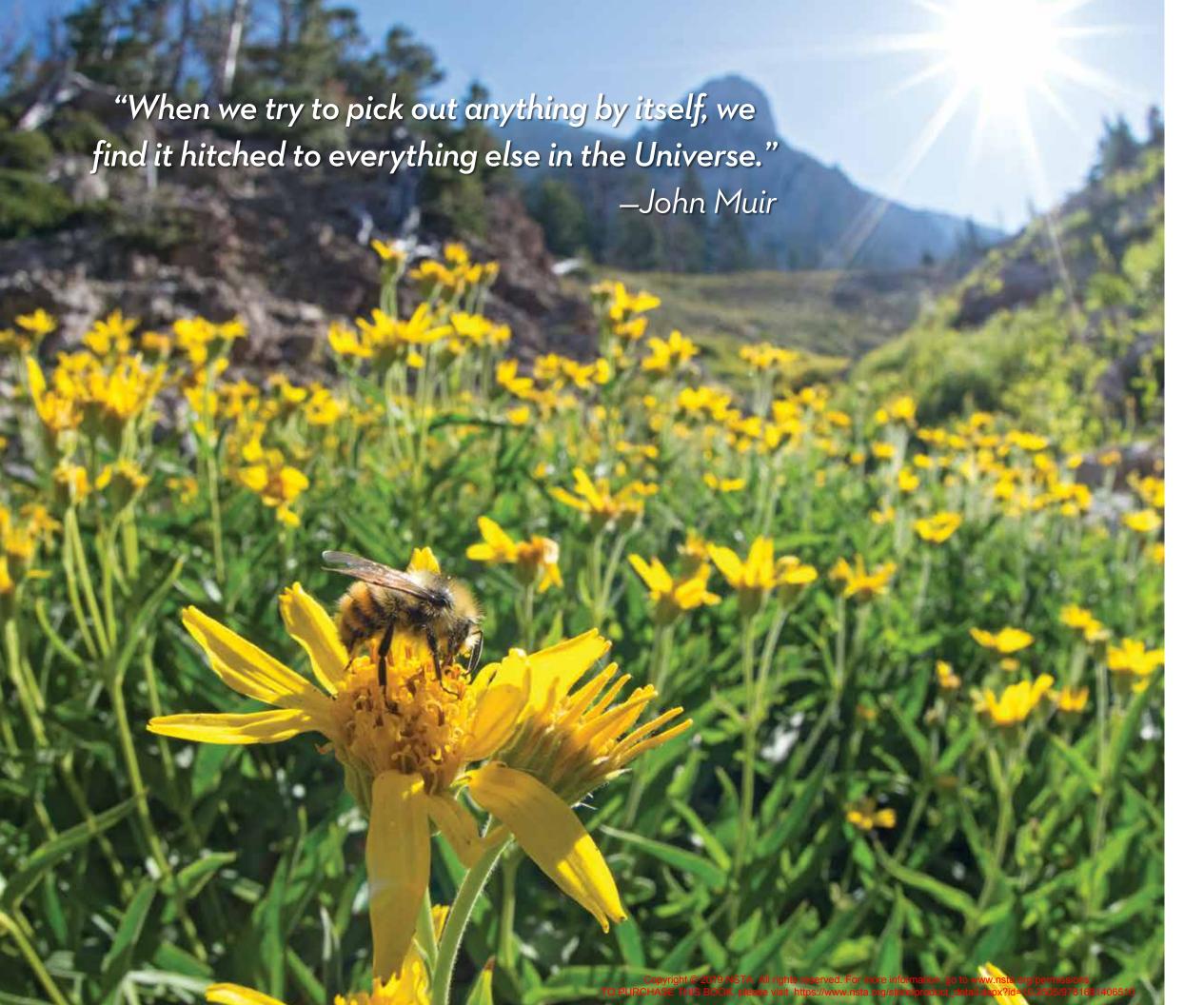
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To Clay Bolt for introducing me and countless others to the beauty and importance of our native bees.



A NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

he books in this series are intended to be read with children after they have had some experience with the featured objects or phenomena. For example, go outside on a warm, sunny day with your child or students and find a patch of flowers. Watch the bees as they fly from flower to flower. Choose one bee to follow with your eyes, and watch it carefully. Take photos or slow-motion videos of it. Talk with your child or students about what you observe, and share what you wonder. Why is the bee visiting these flowers? Is there any kind of pattern to the way it moves? What is that yellow stuff sticking to its body?

After you have had some experiences observing these fascinating insects, read this book together. Take time to pause and share your learnings and wonderings with each other. You will find that new learnings often lead to more questions.

The Next Time You See books are not meant to present facts to be memorized. They are written to inspire a sense of wonder about ordinary objects or phenomena and foster a desire to learn more about the natural world. Children might initially be afraid of bees. However, when they learn how important bees are to humans and the planet, their fear will hopefully develop into appreciation. My wish is that after reading this book, you and your child or students feel a sense of wonder the next time you see a bee.

-Emily Morgan

Safety Note: Teachers, be sure to check with your school nurse about bee-sting allergies and how to deal with them before observing bees. Bee allergies are uncommon and usually associated with honeybees. Bees are unlikely to sting while foraging unless you grab them. However, bee allergies can be life-threatening, so it is important to know if any of your students are allergic and take precautions.



Bees are some of the most important and fascinating insects on Earth. They can be found almost anywhere—from farms to deserts to cities to your own backyard.

The daily activities of these tiny animals affect our lives in a BIG way. Have you ever wondered how such small, common insects can be so important?





When most people think of bees, they think of insects with black and yellow stripes that produce honey and live in hives. While honeybees fit this description, many other types of bees do not. Most bees do not make honey or live in hives. And bees come in a variety of colors from red to blue to metallic green! There are more than 20,000 species of bees in the world. Some are as large as a quarter and many are smaller than a grain of rice. Here is just a small sampling of the world's wide variety of bee species. What similarities and differences do you notice?

Next Time You See a BE







This book will help kids understand why there's so much buzz about bees. Next Time You See α Bee reveals the big impact these little insects have on the world. It explains how bees pollinate flowers as they zip from bloom to bloom, allowing the flowers to produce delicious foods such as apples, almonds, and peaches. It describes the amazing physical features that make bees top-notch pollinators. The book also introduces readers to the wide variety of North America's native bee species, discusses why bees are threatened, and shares what readers can do to help. By reading Next Time You See α Bee, kids can learn to observe bees without fear—and make a beeline to help protect bees for the good of us all.

Awaken a sense of wonder in a child with the *Next Time You* See series from NSTA Kids. The books inspire elementary-age children to experience the enchantment of everyday phenomena such as clouds, maple seeds, Moon phases, pill bugs, fireflies, seashells, and sunsets. Free supplementary activities are available on the NSTA website.

Especially designed to be experienced with an adult—be it a parent, teacher, or friend—Next Time You See books serve as a reminder that you don't have to look far to find something remarkable in nature.

Grades K-5 Lexile® measure: 940L



