

# EUROPEAN BEES AND NATIVE BEES IN KAKADU NATIONAL PARK



Kakadu National Park is a special place in the Northern Territory of Australia, known for its amazing plants and animals. However, there's a problem facing the park's tiny native bees. These bees are being threatened by European honeybees, which were brought to Australia long ago to help make honey. Unlike the gentle native bees, European honeybees are very pushy and take over the flowers and homes that native bees need to survive.

European honeybees also gather food faster and in larger amounts than native bees. This means there is not enough food left for the native bees. Native bees are very important because they help flowers grow by spreading pollen from one flower to another. If there are fewer native bees, there might be fewer flowers and other plants in the park. Moreover, the European bees can carry sicknesses that the native bees can't fight off.

People who take care of the park are working hard to fix this problem. They keep an eye on the bee populations, plant more native flowers, and try to keep the number of European bees under control.

## 1. Where is Kakadu National Park?

Kakadu National Park is in the Northern Territory of Australia.

## 2. What is causing problems for the native bees in Kakadu National Park?

The native bees are having problems because European honeybees are taking over their food sources and homes.

## 3. How do European bees get more food than the native bees?

European bees gather food faster and take more than native bees, leaving less for the native bees.

## 4. Why are native bees important to the park?

Native bees are important because they help flowers and plants grow by pollinating them.

## 5. What are park caretakers doing to help the native bees?

Park caretakers are watching the bee populations, planting more native plants, and controlling the number of European bees to help the native bees.

Uses comprehension strategies to expand content knowledge.



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