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**Specimen - Foreign Invaders**



What do you get when you cross an African honey bee with a European honey bee? You get a "killer bee." Or you call them Africanized honey bees. The present killer bee scare was made possible by events in Brazil in 1957. That year the Brazilian government was trying to increase honey production in local bees so it imported some African bees and was conducting experiments crossbreeding the African bees with local bees. Unfortunately, some of the African queen bees escaped from the research facility.

From there the queens mated with local bees and created new colonies. From 1957 colonies have moved northward. Africanized honey bees have been in the southern United States since 1990. Africanized honey bees behave differently than the local bees in North America. Africanized honey bees are known as killer bees because they sting more often and because when they swarm they are known to attack much larger numbers than other bees.

Part of the fear of Africanized honey bees comes from movies and news stories about people being attacked by killer bees. To date there have been fewer than 100 deaths in North America due to killer bee attacks. The sting of an Africanized honey bee is no more painful or damaging than the sting of a domestic bee. The problem is that so many more bees attack and sting that sometimes makes a large attack fatal.

**Spécimen - Foreign Invaders**

## EXERCISE 1: INFORMATION GATHERING

Answer the following questions based on what you read.

1) Which two species of bees crossbred and became killer bees?

\_\_\_\_\_

2) What was the Brazilian government trying to achieve by crossbreeding bees?

\_\_\_\_\_

3) In what year did the killer bee scare begin? What event made it possible?

\_\_\_\_\_

4) What did the escaped African queen bees do?

\_\_\_\_\_

5) How long have Africanized honey bees been in the United States?

\_\_\_\_\_

6) Why are Africanized honey bees called killer bees?

\_\_\_\_\_

7) What affect have movies and stories about killer bees had on the public?

\_\_\_\_\_

8) Is a killer bee sting worse than the sting of a domestic bee? What makes killer bees more dangerous?

\_\_\_\_\_

## EXERCISE 2: VOCABULARY

Circle the best synonym for each of the words on the left.

1) condy a) denying b) running c) admitting

2) es a) got loose b) tunnelled c) returned

3) a) hostilities b) groups c) privates

4) a) resolve b) anger c) bite

5) domestic a) exported b) imported c) local

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