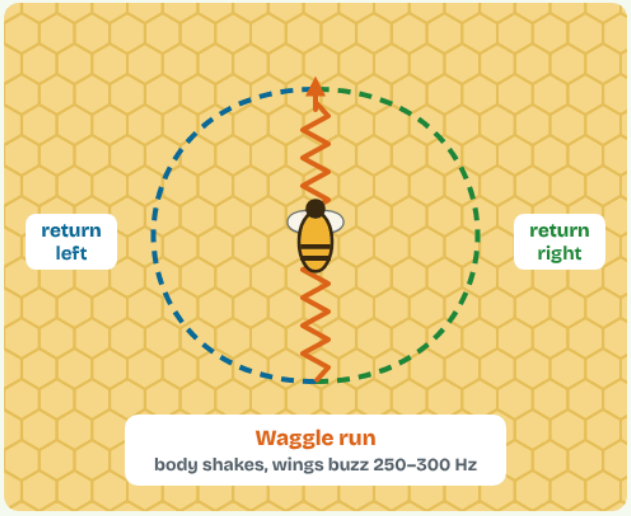
That is why

Why do honeybees do the waggle dance?

To tell nestmates where food is: the angle shows the direction compared with the sun, and the length shows the distance.

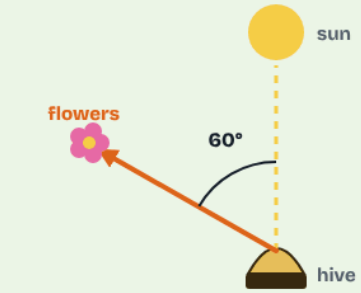
A The figure eight

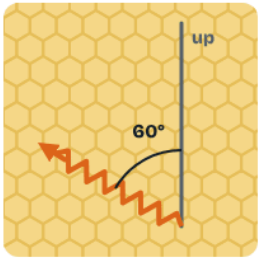


Danced in the dark

On an upright comb inside the hive, she runs straight, loops back one way, runs again, loops back the other way. Young bees with no older dancers to follow danced sloppily.

B Direction: the sun becomes “up”





C Distance: time is the ruler





Under 50 m: a round dance, no straight run and no direction.

1 What followers do

Radar: recruits fly to the area, then search by scent. A top patch earns up to 100 runs. About 10% are scouts.

Up means the sun, and longer means farther.

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Diagram: https://thatiswhy.com/diagrams/why-honeybees-waggle-dance/ · Full guide: https://thatiswhy.com/why-do-honeybees-do-the-waggle-dance/