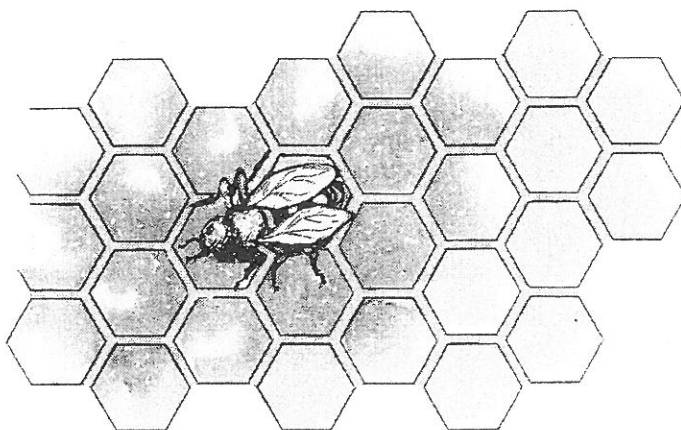


Area

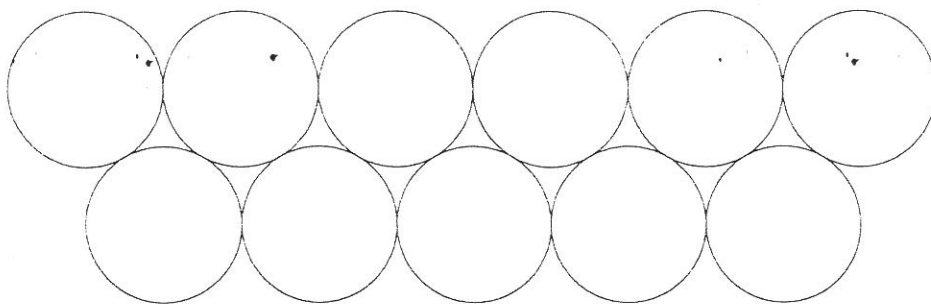
DID YOU KNOW?

Bees use geometry too!

Have you ever looked at a honeycomb in which bees store their honey? The honeycomb is made up of many, many little hexagons. Each hexagon fits with the next so that there is no space in between. In other words, the hexagons tessellate.



You discovered in your investigation that the circle has the greatest area of all the shapes. Why don't bees make circular honeycombs? Use the picture below to explain.



Remember that we learned in the previous unit that circles can't tessellate (fit together without leaving space in between). That means that bees would be wasting space and wax if they made circular honeycombs. By making honeycombs made up of hexagons, bees get the greatest area for the least amount of wax.