**Nature Myths: honey bees**

Each culture has a different bee myth that explains real life facts and conveys a message. Read each & write what real life facts it explains & what message it conveys.

1. Brazil: *In the beginning, honey was found in huge pots on the ground, and people ate as much as they liked. The gods looked down and were greatly displeased. “Those humans are becoming fat and lazy,” they said. The gods commanded the bees to build honey comb high in the tall jungle trees. Now people had to work hard to climb up and get the honey.*
	1. Real life fact:
	2. Message:
2. Thailand: *Long, long ago, elephants did not have trunks. One day a terrible forest fire swept over the land. To escape the smoke, the honey bees hid inside the elephants’ mouths. The elephants trumpeted angrily, but the bees would not come out. The elephants blew so hard, their mouths stretched out into trunks. In desperation, the elephants breathed in stinging smoke and the bees finally buzzed off. Since then, bees have always build honeycomb in hollow trees, because it reminds them of elephant trunks.*
	1. Real life fact:
	2. Message:
3. Australia: *Two Numerji brothers went on walkabout. They came across some bees collecting the sweet nectar from flowers. The brothers wondered how they could follow the bees back to their nest. The older brother had a bright idea. He attached a thread of sticky spider web to a bee. This made the bee easy to follow and the younger brother ran after it. He tracked the bee to a hollow tree. There he found a delicious honeycomb—or sugarbag as Aboriginal Australians still call it today.*
	1. Real life fact:
	2. Message:
4. Africa: *Bee was a kindly creature. One night, Mantis needed to cross a great, flooded river to reach his family, and asked Bee for help. Bee offered to carry Mantis on her back. She flew over the raging waters but was beaten down by a strong wind. Bee was dangerously close to the waves when she saw a magnificent flower floating on the water. Bee dropped Mantis onto the flower, fell beside her, and died of exhaustion. When the sun rose, curled up on the flower was the first human being—bee’s sacrifice.*
	1. Real life fact:
	2. Message: