

NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, September 20** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Presidential pen pal: Florida boy's beekeeping get White House Buzz (Main News, page A2).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Look at the title of this article. What is a pen pal? Have you ever had a pen pal before? Look at the picture accompanying the article. What is the boy in the picture wearing? What is he doing in the picture? How do you think this would be of interest to the White House?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. beekeeper
- B. hive
- C. host
- D. installed
- E. parcel
- F. pen pal
- G. pollinating
- H. promote
- I. variety
- J. wrangling

1. to help (something) happen, develop, or increase
2. to make (a machine, a service, etc.) ready to be used in a certain place
3. to control and care for (horses, cattle, etc.) on a ranch
4. a person (such as someone in a foreign country) who you exchange letters with even though you have never met
5. to receive or entertain guests at home or elsewhere
6. to give (a plant) pollen from another plant of the same kind so that seeds will be produced
7. a person who raises bees
8. a particular kind of person or thing
9. a box or large envelope that is usually given, sent, or delivered to a person
10. a nest for bees

Comprehension

1. What has Benjamin Oppenheimer's bee wrangling won him awards for?
2. How old is Benjamin Oppenheimer?
3. What did Benjamin write to President Obama praising him for?
4. What did Benjamin also ask the President to do in his letter?
5. According to what Benjamin's dad told him, of the thousands of letters the president receives, how many does he read each day?
6. Where did the President Obama say that he and the First Lady had installed a beehive?
7. What did the President Obama tell Benjamin that the beehive he and the First Lady had installed has helped with?
8. What was in the parcel Benjamin received from the White House?
9. The honey that Ben sells from his hive is the same variety of honey as from the president's hive – **true or false?**

Additional Activities

1. What is colony collapse disorder and why is it a growing concern to farmers and beekeepers? Watch the video "A Disastrous Year For Bees" at the following link: <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/08/trouble-in-the-hive-researching-the-decimation-of-honeybee-colonies/>.
2. After watching the video answer the following questions:
 - a) What do the commercial bee keepers in California believe is causing the die off of bees (colony collapse disorder)?
 - b) What percent of their insects did the beekeepers say they had lost in the last year to the die off?
 - c) What portion of America's diet depends on the honeybee for pollination?
 - d) Name one of the crops mentioned in the video that the bees pollinate.

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