



Evolution of Beekeeping

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Beekeeping in the Ancient Times



Rock Painting of Honey Hunter
gathering honey from 10,000
years ago, in Cueva de la
Arana.
(Spain)



This was one of the first records of
beekeeping from 2400 BC, near
Cairo, Egypt

<http://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/beekeeping-may-go-back-early-years-agriculture-9000-years-ago-004553>

How did Beekeeping start?



- + Early stages of beekeeping started by accident.
- + As the bee population increased, they started settling in woven baskets or “baked-mud water pots”
- + Honey gatherers in medieval Europe found and nurtured trees with honeybees in their “cavities”
- + In 1622, bees were brought to the Eastern part of the U.S.



Beekeeping in America

In the early 1600s, bees were shipped from England and spread along the Eastern Coast of the U.S. By the mid-1800s bees were shipped to California.

Bees were first stored in straw skeps. Later on, the abundance of lumber caused the shift to hive boxes made out of wood. Other times “log gums” (a section of a tree sawed out to store bees), were used as hives.



Beekeeping in America

During this time, “farmers built wood hives with easily removable tops so that chunks of honey could be removed without killing the colonies.” These are now called “supers.”

In 1852, L.L. Langstroth patented a hive that has portable frames. Before his invention, Greek leaf hives were used to inspect hives. Langstroth lead to the modern methods of beekeeping.



Modern Day Beekeeping

Honey bees first kept in wooden boxes, straw skeps, pottery vessels, and more.

1852: L. L. Langstroth patented a hive with movable frames, this hive is still being used to this day.

Log Gums were used and some are still being used today.

1857: Wax Comb Foundation was made.



Modern Day Beekeeping continued

1865: Centrifugal Honey Extractor was invented.

The beekeeping veil has evolved tremendously.

Before the bee smoker, would use pan to contain smoking material that would calm the bees

<http://vetschooldiary.com/blog/2013/02/12/the-history-of-bees-day-156/>



Citations

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