

# A trip to Phuket

- Aishwarya Kumar, Grade V

I went to Phuket, Thailand for a holiday it was a great experience for me. It was my first time snorkeling and I was very excited. It is way different from swimming. If you wanted to, you could keep your head in the water for an hour straight.

When my family and I reached Phuket it started raining and since it was evening we could not do much. The next day my family went to a tour where we rode on elephants, fed them, watched baby elephants do tricks and saw a type of monkey called a pigtail macaque climbing trees to collect coconuts.

On third day we went on a tour of Phi Phi Islands where we did snorkeling. Where I was snorkeling most of the coral was brown and there were lots of yellow and black fishes. The water was around 2 meters deep around the boat we dived from. Then we went into deeper water, since we were wearing life jackets, it was easier to swim. After that we went to a beach for lunch and played in shallow water. Before returning to Phuket we snorkeled once more where there were more corals and fishes.



The next day we went to Khai Island. We did not have to jump from boats this time; we could go into water from the beach. There were a lot of different types of fishes in the reefs, some even swimming into the shallow waters in search of food. During snorkeling I saw corals shaped as heart, star, question marks and even a bowl of spaghetti. After snorkeling we fed the yellow fishes cookies. A cookie fell off my hand as they started nibbling it from all directions; they were all over it instantly. □

## Mysterious Bee – havior

Imagine you are a bee keeper in United states of America and you went to check your bees, you find 36% to 70% of your bees have disappeared and when you mention this to other bee keepers, you hear the same story. So you go to a bee expert to find out what might have happened to your bees.

However Wait!! Why are bees important to us? They are well known for their sting. But we can't forget their sweet honey and fruits and nuts which are all directly or indirectly pollinated by bees. So they are not useless.

So now you are ready to find out the answer you're waiting for. Sadly, nobody knows the answer. It may be a bee flu, poor nutrition or fungus. Experts do know that bees are having trouble with their immune systems. Is that the culprit? But investigators are working as busy as bees to put honey bees back into business.

Four more quick facts about bees.

- The first known bee keepers were ancient Egyptians
- Honeybees communicate by dancing
- To collect enough nectar for one pound of honey, bees fly 50,000 miles
- A honey bee's wings beat about 11,400 times a minute.

Reference: National Geographic Kids Almanac 2010.