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Help the bee to find a honey drop: cylinders, triangles, symmetries.

Math. Teach. (Derby) 240, 41-42 (2014).

Summary: The context of a problem in which a bee on the outside of a cylindrical jar seeks the shortest route to a drop of honey inside the jar is used by the author to suggest a practical approach to its solution. This is an account of a classroom activity that seeks to solve a relatively complex problem with the help of 'customised' model. The visualization and understanding required to resolve things is enabled by the model which, as it is formed from acetate sheet, is transparent.

Classification: G40 U60 G70

Keywords: solid geometry; student activities; distance; shortest path; visualization; realia; concrete objects; manipulative materials; acetate sheets; rectangles; circles; cylinders; line reflections; analytical geometry