

From Hive to Crayon

STRETCH • ADULT-RUN

1–2 HOURS

HOT WAX

The point

“Human-made” is not something a thing is *born* as — it takes **human effort**. Start with something a bee made (raw honeycomb, fully **biological**), and with heat, color, and a mold, walk it across into the **human-made** box: a crayon you can draw with. Same wax — but a *made* thing now, because a person did the work. You will watch a thing change boxes in a single afternoon.

Materials

- A piece of **real raw honeycomb** with honey in it
- A **double boiler** (or a tin can set in a pot of water)
- Cheesecloth or a fine strainer • a clean jar
- Wax colorant, or an old **crayon stub** for color
- A silicone **crayon or candy mold** • oven mitts • spoons
- A little bread, to taste the honey

Steps

- 1 **Meet the raw material.** Pass the honeycomb around — bees built every cell. This is a living-thing product. Taste the honey.
- 2 **Separate the honey.** Warm the comb gently and strain the honey through cheesecloth into the jar. Now you hold two bee-made things: honey and clean **beeswax**.
- 3 **Melt the wax** (adult) — in the double boiler until it is liquid and smells like a hive.
- 4 **Color it.** Stir in a little colorant or a melted crayon stub.
- 5 **Mold it.** Pour into the crayon mold. Let it cool and set — about 20–30 minutes (a fridge is faster).
- 6 **Draw with it.** Pop out the finished crayon and make a mark. A bee’s wax is now a crayon.

Say: “The bees made the wax. **You** made the crayon. Human-made is never found in nature — it is what happens when people do the work.”

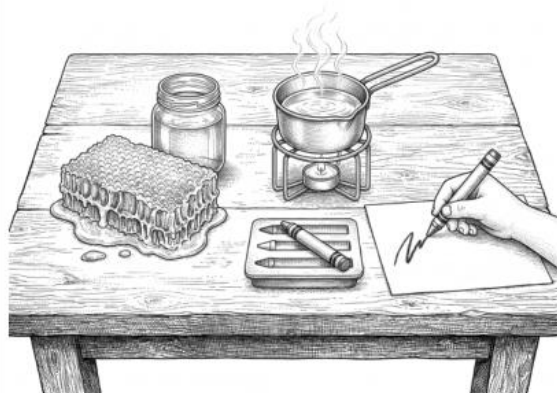


Fig. 1 — comb to honey to melted wax to mold to a finished crayon

SAFETY — AN ADULT’S JOB

Melting and pouring hot wax is done by an adult. Melt **gently over water** — never on direct high heat, where wax can scorch or catch fire. Kids do the cool steps: tasting honey, straining, choosing the color, and popping out the crayon.

What to watch for

- The moment it clicks: the wax did not change — only **who shaped it** did
- Kids naming the two makers: the **bee** (living) and the **person** (human-made)

EXPECTED RESULT

In an hour or two, a biological raw material crossed into the human-made box — and the children did the making. The clearest proof of the whole lesson.