



Bee at Home

Pollination

- Bees carry out the important job of pollination, carrying pollen grains from flower to flower
- Bees are good pollinators because pollen sticks to their hairy bodies



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Bee anatomy

- Bees are insects and have 3 body parts: a head, thorax and abdomen
- The 6 legs and 4 wings are attached to the thorax



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Bee anatomy

- Bees have 5 eyes, 2 large compound eyes and 3 simple eyes on top of their heads
- The simple can only see light and dark but are thought to be used in navigation using the position of the sun



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Bee anatomy: bee antennae

- Bees use their antennae to explore their world. They use them to smell, hear, touch and taste.



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Bee anatomy: bee with long tongue

- Bees have different lengths of tongue to reach nectar - depending on their types of flowers they visit



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Bee anatomy: carrying pollen

- Many bees have special hairs on their rear legs designed to carry pollen
- Some have a pollen basket or corbicula where pollen mixed with nectar is carried



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European Honey bee hive

- These non-native bees are kept in hives by beekeepers
- A hive can have up to 60 000 bees
- A queen lays eggs while her worker daughters bring food and care for larvae
- Native bees do not make honey



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Bumblebee hive in the ground

- Bumblebees live in small hives with up to 400 bees by fall
- The queen chooses an underground site such as an old mouse nest



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Green bee with nest in ground

- Green bees dig tunnels in the ground
- They are usually solitary but can be semi-social, sharing a hole and helping to defend the entrance



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3rd Grade Extension: group of ground bee nests



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Carpenter Bee Nest

- Carpenter bees chew their own nesting tunnel in wood