

# What Are Bees?

Bees are a type of flying insect.

Bees are very important as they help to pollinate plants. This helps plants to grow and produce food.

Bees have 6 legs.

Bees have wings.

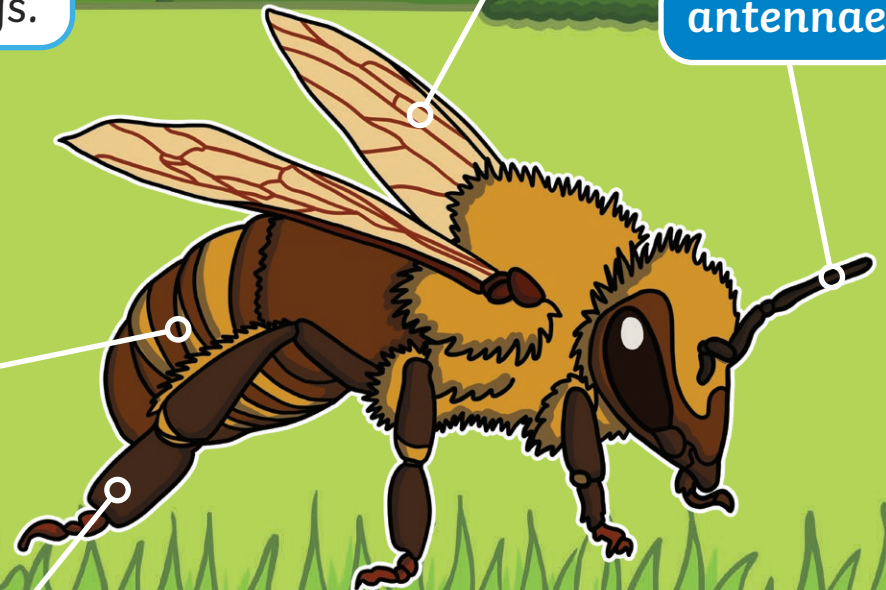


wing

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leg



# Different Types of Bees

Did you know that there are over 25,000 different species of bees? Here are just a few of them.

Have a think...  
Can you see any differences?



Honey Bee



Furrow Bee



Bumblebee



Leafcutter Bee



Mason Bee

Have a think...  
Can you see anything that is the same about the bees?

# Where Do Bees Live?

Different types of bees like to live in different places.



Some bees make nests, like this one. They like to make their nests in trees, gardens or under roofs.



Some bees like to live inside plant stems or small holes.



Some bees like to build their nests in holes or empty tunnels underground.



The nests help to protect eggs, larva and pupa. These will develop into bees.

# What Is Pollination?

When bees have finished drinking the nectar on one flower, they fly to the next one. The pollen that was stuck to their legs then rubs off onto the next flower.

This is called pollination.

It helps plants to grow and produce food.



Can you see the pollen that is stuck to this bee?

## What do bees eat?

Bees like to feed on nectar and pollen.

Nectar tastes very sweet.

Pollen is often dusty and yellow - it gets stuck to a bee's legs and body.

# How Do Bees Help Us?

By pollinating lots of different plants, bees help plants and fruits to grow.

Pollination helps plants to grow foods, such as...

peaches

apples

strawberries

cucumbers



**Did you know...?**

Bees make honey and store it as food for the winter, when there are fewer flowers.

Honey bees also produce lots of honey.



# How Can We Help Bees?



Plant bee-friendly flowers in your garden or other open spaces.

Create a bee pond. Bees can't swim and don't like getting their wings wet, but they do need water. Leave a shallow dish of water out for bees to drink from.



Build some bee hotels or bee nests.

