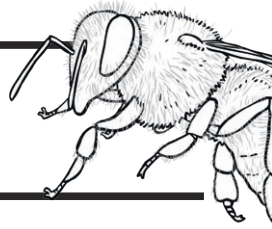


# Bees



There are many different types of bees - over 20,000 species, in fact!

There are three main types of bee: the honeybee, the bumblebee and the solitary bee.

Honeybees and bumblebees live together with many other bees in colonies, but solitary bees live alone.

There is only one bee in each colony who lays eggs. She is the queen bee.

## Did You Know?

In the summer, a queen bee can lay as many as 2500 eggs in a day!

The female worker bees spend their time gathering nectar to make honey. They travel a long way to collect the nectar and then find their way back to the colony. They have a fantastic sense of direction! Only female bees are able to sting. Male bees cannot sting.

Have you heard that if a bee stings someone, it will die? This is actually only true for worker honeybees. Many species of bees could sting someone and carry on with their day.

Bees are very important for humans because they help to make the food we eat. As well as the honey made by honeybees, bees are also important for moving pollen between plants, as it gets caught on their bodies and rubbed off onto the next flower they visit. This is called pollination. It helps to fertilise plants so that new plants can grow to provide food for us. Bees also collect pollen to take back to their hive. They use the pollen to feed baby bees (which are called larvae).

## Did You Know?

Honey has been used by human beings for thousands of years, not only as a food but as a medicine and a beauty product too.

'You're as busy as a bee!' Have you ever heard this phrase before? People compare busy people to bees because bees are very busy insects. They work very hard collecting nectar to make honey and can fly as quickly as 15 miles per hour.

Do you know what causes the buzzing sound that you can hear when a bee is near? It comes from the bee's wings beating together very quickly. A bee beats its wings 200 times a second!

