

# All About Bees



## What Is a Bee?

These small, flying insects can be found in most habitats across the world. There are two types of bees called solitary and social. An example of a solitary bee would be a leafcutter bee. They mostly like to live alone. An example of a social bee is the honeybee. They like to live in hives or nests. Bees often come in black and yellow stripes but their black stripes can also be combined with other colours, such as red, blue and green.

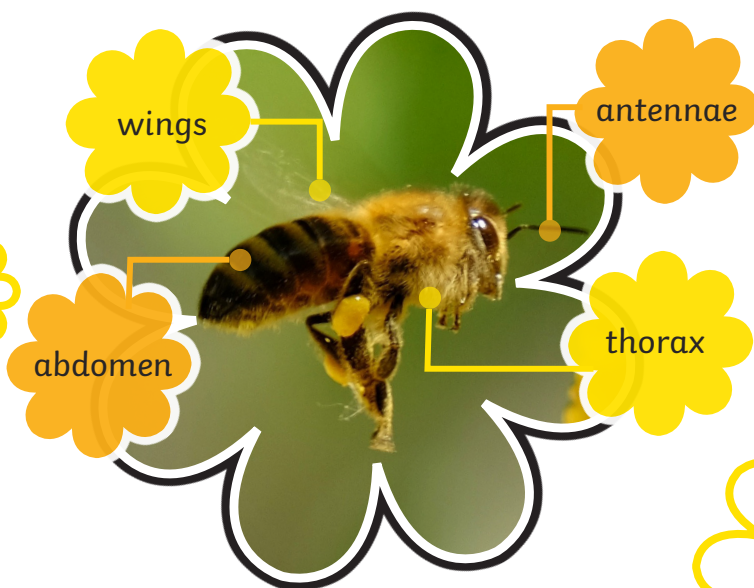
leafcutter  
bee



There are bees living in almost every part of our planet. We need them to make plants and flowers grow.

## The Bee Body

Most bees have an **exoskeleton** and are made up of three key parts called the head, **thorax** and abdomen. The eyes and mouth are on the head. A bee's four wings and six legs are on the thorax. The abdomen holds the digestive system and a honey sac in female honeybees. If the bee is female, it will have a stinger on the end. The buzz of a bee is caused by its four wings moving together. They can move 11,400 times per minute.



## Did You Know...?

Only seven out of the 20,000 species of bees make honey.



## Bees in a Honeybee Hive

There are three kinds of bees that live together in a honeybee hive. They are called a queen, worker bees and drones. A queen is a female bee that can lay eggs. There is usually only one per hive. A worker bee is a female who gathers the nectar from flowers that is then used to make honey. A drone bee is a male bee that helps a queen to lay eggs.



queen  
bee

worker  
bee

## Why Are Bees Important?

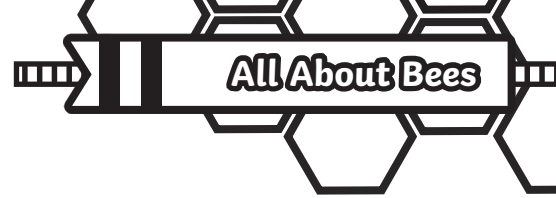
Pollen helps flowers make seeds. Most plants, flowers and crops that grow on Earth make pollen and depend on bees to move it between them. Without the bees moving the pollen, flowers and plants couldn't make seeds.

## Glossary

**exoskeleton:** A hard outer shell that protects some insects from harm.

**thorax:** The middle section of an insect's body.





# Questions

1. How many kinds of bees live together in a honeybee hive? Tick one.

- ☐ one
- ☐ two
- ☐ three
- ☐ four

2. What kind of bee is a leafcutter bee? Tick one.

- ☐ solitary bee
- ☐ social bee
- ☐ queen bee
- ☐ worker bee

3. What do bees carry that helps flowers make seeds? Tick one.

- ☐ nectar
- ☐ pollen
- ☐ petals
- ☐ leaves

4. How many legs does a bee have? Tick one.

- ☐ two
- ☐ four
- ☐ six
- ☐ eight

5. Fill in the missing words.

These small, flying insects can be \_\_\_\_\_ in most \_\_\_\_\_ across the world.

6. Look at the section called **Bees in a Honeybee Hive**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'collects'.

\_\_\_\_\_

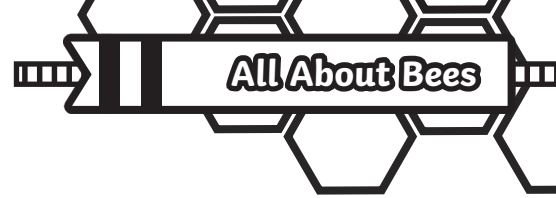


7. Write down one thing you found interesting about bees.  
Explain why you found it interesting.

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# Answers

1. How many kinds of bees live together in a honeybee hive? Tick one.

- ☐ one
- ☐ two
- ☒ **three**
- ☐ four

2. What kind of bee is a leafcutter bee? Tick one.

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- ☐ social bee
- ☐ queen bee
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- ☐ two
- ☐ four
- ☒ **six**
- ☐ eight

5. Fill in the missing words.

These small, flying insects can be **found** in most **habitats** across the world.

6. Look at the section called **Bees in a Honeybee Hive**.

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'collects'.

**gathers**



7. Write down one thing you found interesting about bees.  
Explain why you found it interesting.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I found it interesting that there are different types of bees. I thought that it was interesting that they all have different names and have different jobs to do in the hive.**



# All About Bees



## What Is a Bee?

A bee is a small, flying insect. The most common colour combination is yellow and black but bees can also be found in various colours, such as red, blue and green. There are around 20,000 species of bees but only seven make honey.



They live in most habitats found on Earth. There are two types of bees called solitary and social. Solitary bees often build their nests in the ground and mostly like to live alone. An example of a solitary bee would be a leafcutter bee. Social bees like to live together in hives or nests that can be found above and below ground. An example of a social bee is the honeybee.

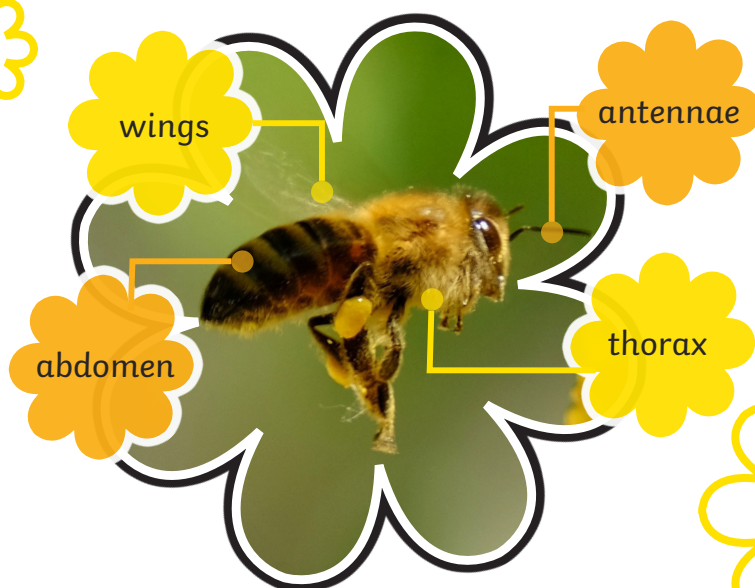
leafcutter  
bee



Bees live almost everywhere on the planet and are necessary for both plants and animals.

## The Bee Body

Almost all bees have an **exoskeleton** and are made up of three key parts called the head, **thorax** and abdomen. The head contains the eyes, mouth and **antennae**. The thorax contains four wings and six legs. The abdomen contains the digestive system and the honey sac in female honeybees. If the bee is female, the abdomen will have a stinger on the end. The buzz of a bee is caused by its four wings moving together. They hook together when the bee is flying and unhook when they land.



## Did You Know...?

A bee's wings can move 11,400 times per minute.

## Bees in a Honeybee Hive

In a honeybee hive, there are three types of bees that make up the community. They are called a queen, worker bees and drones. A queen is a female bee that can lay eggs. There is usually only one in a hive and she can lay up to 2000 eggs in a day. A worker bee is a female who can't lay eggs but is in charge of collecting nectar and keeping the hive tidy. She also takes care of the eggs and worm-like baby bees called larvae. A drone bee is a male bee that rarely leaves the hive. He helps a queen to lay eggs.

## Why Are Bees Important?

Most plants, flowers and crops that grow on Earth depend on bee **pollination** to reproduce. Various habitats also rely on bees to help them to grow.



queen  
bee

worker  
bee

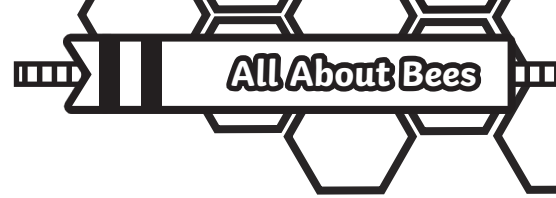


larva

## Glossary

<b>antennae:</b>	Two long, thin parts on the heads of some insects that they use to touch and feel things with.
<b>exoskeleton:</b>	A hard outer shell that protects some insects from harm.
<b>pollination:</b>	The process of putting pollen in a flower so that it may produce seeds.
<b>thorax:</b>	The middle section of an insect's body.





# Questions

1. According to the text, what other colours of bees are there? Tick one.

- ☐ red, blue and green
- ☐ red, brown and green
- ☐ red, blue and turquoise
- ☐ red, black and white

2. What does the head of a bee have? Tick one.

- ☐ mouth, nose and antennae
- ☐ eyes, ears and nose
- ☐ mouth, eyes and antennae
- ☐ mouth, eyes and ears

3. How many eggs can a queen bee lay per day? Tick one.

- ☐ 20,000
- ☐ 11,400
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 2000

4. Which bee likes to live in a hive? Tick one.

- ☐ solitary bee
- ☐ social bee
- ☐ spelling bee
- ☐ skipping bee

5. Fill in the missing words.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of putting pollen in a flower so that it may \_\_\_\_\_ seeds.

6. Look at the section called **What Is a Bee?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'several' or 'many'.

\_\_\_\_\_



7. Do you think the name 'queen bee' is the right name for that type of bee?  
Explain your answer.

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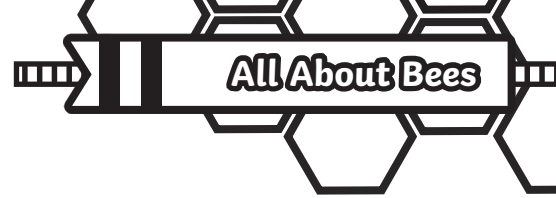
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8. How do bees help habitats grow? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

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- ☐ red, brown and green
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- ☒ **mouth, eyes and antennae**
- ☐ mouth, eyes and ears

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4. Which bee likes to live in a hive? Tick one.

- ☐ solitary bee
- ☒ **social bee**
- ☐ spelling bee
- ☐ skipping bee

5. Fill in the missing words.

The **process** of putting pollen in a flower so that it may **produce** seeds.

6. Look at the section called **What Is a Bee?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'several' or 'many'.

**various**



7. Do you think the name 'queen bee' is the right name for that type of bee?  
Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think it is the right name for her since she is the only one that can lay eggs and doesn't really do anything else. The worker bees do all of the other work.**

8. How do bees help habitats grow? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think bees help habitats grow because they help plants and flowers create seeds, which creates more plants and flowers where animals can live. Animals can also use the plants and flowers for food.**

All About

# Bees



## What Is a Bee?

Only seven of the 20,000 species of bees make honey. These small, flying insects can be seen in various colours but the most familiar colour combination is yellow and black.



Bees can live in most habitats, such as marshes, forests, sandy, rocky or chalky areas and grasslands. There are social and solitary bees. Honeybees are social bees. Social bees live together in communities or hives above or below ground. Bumblebees are solitary bees. Solitary bees often build their nests underground and mostly live by themselves.

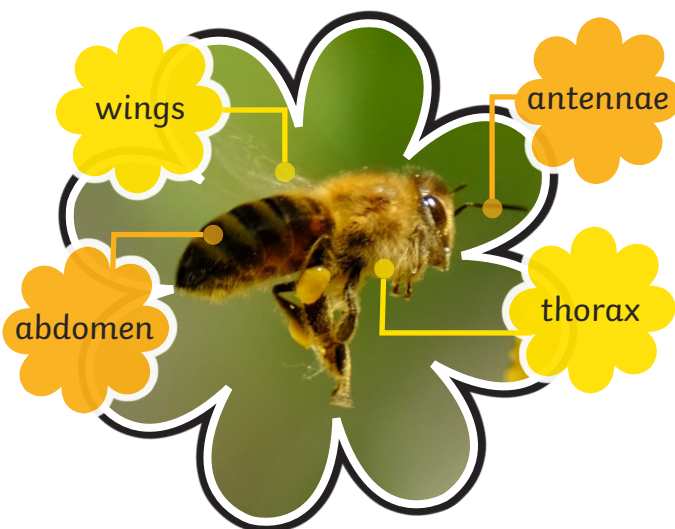
## Bees in a Honeybee Hive

There are three primary types of bees that live and work together in a honeybee hive: the queen, workers and drones. A queen is an adult female that is around double the size of the worker bees and she can live for about two years. Her job is to release chemical scents that keep the hive community working together and reproduce with drones in order to lay eggs.

Frequently seen in most gardens, bees live almost everywhere on our planet and are extremely important to all life on Earth.

## The Bee Body

Generally, the majority of bees have an **exoskeleton** and are made up of three key parts: the head, **thorax** and abdomen. The head contains the eyes, mouth and **antennae**. The thorax is divided into three distinct parts. The front legs are connected to the first part, the middle legs and the first pair of wings are connected to the second part and the back legs and the second pair of wings are connected to the last part. The abdomen contains the digestive system and the honey sac in female honeybees. Female bees have a stinger on the end of their abdomen. The buzz of a bee is the result of the fast beating of its four wings, which can move 11,400 times per minute. A bee's wings hook together when it is flying but unhook when they land.





A queen can lay up to 2000 eggs a day. When a queen dies, the other bees feed a worm-like baby bee called a larva. This makes a substance called royal jelly. This will eventually turn the larva into a new queen.

Worker bees are also female but they don't lay any eggs and only live for around 6 weeks in the summer. Their jobs are to collect nectar and pollen from flowers, make honey, take care of the larvae and eggs and keep the hive tidy. Drones are male bees that hardly ever leave the hive and their only job is to reproduce with a queen so she can lay more eggs.



queen bee

worker bee



larva

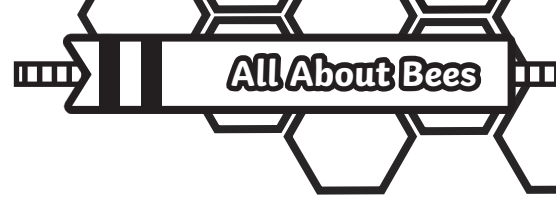
## Why Are Bees Important?

One out of every three mouthfuls of food humans eat depends on bees. A large number of plants, flowers and crops depend on bee **pollination** to reproduce. Various habitats also rely on bees to help them to grow.



## Glossary

<b>antennae:</b>	Two long, thin parts on the heads of some insects that they use to touch and feel things with.
<b>exoskeleton:</b>	A hard outer shell that protects some insects from harm.
<b>pollination:</b>	The process of putting pollen in a flower so that it may produce seeds.
<b>thorax:</b>	The middle section of an insect's body.



# Questions

1. What do bees feed to a larva to make a new queen? Tick one.

- ☐ nectar
- ☐ royal jelly
- ☐ pollen
- ☐ honey

2. Draw **four** lines and match each part of a bee to its description.

exoskeleton

stinger

thorax

abdomen

this is only found on the end of female bees

the middle part of a bee where its wings and legs are

a hard outer shell that protects insects from harm

the part of a bee that contains the digestive system

3. What are male honeybees called?

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4. Fill in the missing words.

The thorax is \_\_\_\_\_ into three \_\_\_\_\_ parts.

5. Look at the section called **What Is a Bee?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'well-known' or 'easily recognised'.

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6. What sort of habitat might **not** have bees? Explain your answer.

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7. Do bees help fruits grow on trees? Explain your answer.

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8. Do you think the name 'worker bee' is appropriate for that type of bee?  
Explain your answer.

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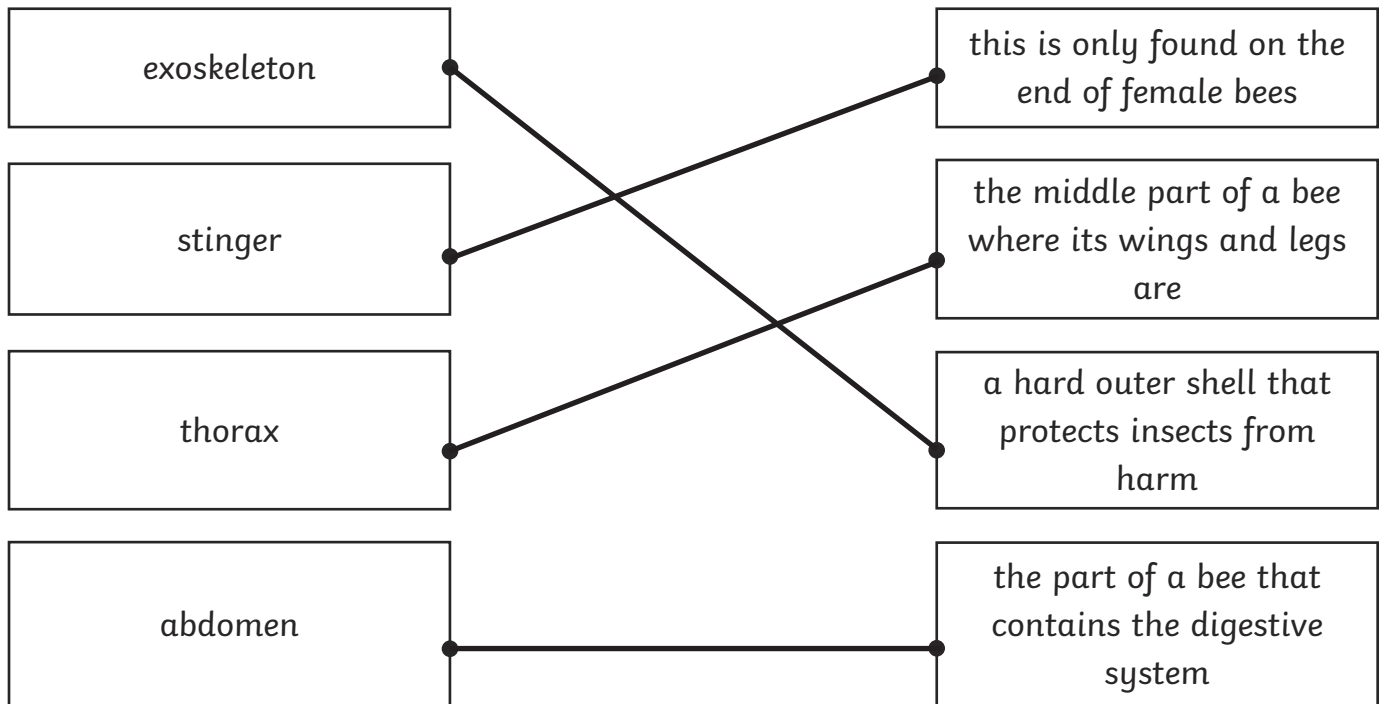
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# Answers

1. What do bees feed to a larva to make a new queen? Tick one.

- ☐ nectar
- ☒ **royal jelly**
- ☐ pollen
- ☐ honey

2. Draw **four** lines and match each part of a bee to its description.



3. What are male honeybees called?

**Male honeybees are called drones.**

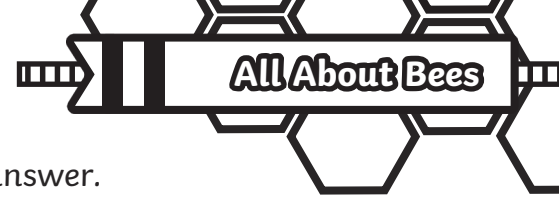
4. Fill in the missing words.

The thorax is **divided** into three **distinct** parts.

5. Look at the section called **What Is a Bee?**

Find and copy one word that means the same as 'well-known' or 'easily recognised'.

**familiar**



6. What sort of habitat might **not** have bees? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think an icy habitat might not have any bees, such as Antarctica. This habitat doesn't really have flowers or plants that the bees could use for food.**

7. Do bees help fruits grow on trees? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think they must help fruit grow on a tree. Fruit trees have blossoms before they have fruit and bees must visit these blossoms for nectar. The blossom falls off and fruit forms with seeds inside.**

8. Do you think the name 'worker bee' is appropriate for that type of bee? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think the name worker bee is appropriate because this bee does all of the work. Worker bees take care of the babies, visit flowers for nectar and keep the nest tidy.**