

## Bee Activities

- Create questions using the text, dependent on your learner's level.
- There are 2 worksheets on bees, provided below.
- If the text on the first worksheet is too long for one activity, it can be read over 2 or 3 lessons. Learners can recap what they learnt, in the last lesson, before carrying on.
- Read the text together, as a class and discuss the different parts of the text.
- Ask learners to create a poster or poem about bees and why we need to save them.
- Create an area for a bee garden.
- Ask learners to read the text and then write what each of these words mean-
  - pollen
  - colonies
  - hive
  - queen bee
  - drones
  - pesticides
  - habitats



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## Learn along with Kelly

### Bees

Bees are really helpful. It may not seem like it whilst they're buzzing around your picnic and scaring your friends, but we'd actually be in a lot of trouble without them. Bees pollinate plants. This is very important, but what does that actually mean? We'll come back to bees in a minute. Let's talk about plants. Plants grow from seeds but where do the seeds come from?



Plants grow their own seeds; you may have seen them before and not even realised it. Fruiting plants like apple trees, strawberry plants and watermelon vines contain their seeds in or on their fruit; other flowering plants, such as pansies or poppies, grow them in pods around the flower of the plant. These seeds then make their way to the ground, either falling from the pod or the fruit falling to the ground and rotting, then releasing the seeds; new plants can then grow from the seeds. Plants can't grow seeds however without being *pollinated* first.



Plants produce dust called pollen in their flowers. Plants cannot pollinate themselves though; they need the pollen of another plant of the same type to grow seeds. Flowers smell nice, they use this , as well as a sweet tasting liquid called nectar, to attract bees, as well as, in some cases, other animals such as butterflies, wasps and even bats.



I use my 'buzz' to help me collect pollen from flowers.

*Now, let's get back to bees.*

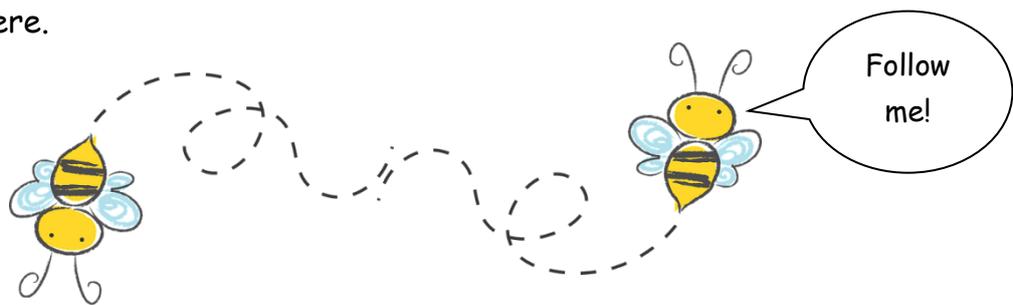
Bees live in groups called colonies and each colony lives in a large nest called a hive. Hives are kind of like a town for bees. Every bee in a colony lives in a hive together and different bees have different jobs. The most important bee in the hive is the queen bee. A queen bee is the only bee in a colony that can lay eggs and every other bee in a colony works to feed and protect her. The other two types of bee are the worker bee and the drone. Drones are the only male bees in the colony; they only exist to mate with the queen so she can lay eggs. Much like how flowers cannot produce seeds without pollen from other flowers, the queen cannot produce eggs without the drones. The worker bees are female and do all of the work.

I'm a very important bee!



Worker bees are the ones you see flying around outside. They fly out from the hive looking for nectar from flowers to bring back to feed the rest of the hive. When a bee crawls inside the flower to collect the nectar, it gets covered in pollen. When it climbs into the next flower, some of that pollen rubs off and pollinates the flower. Without bees, most plants would die out and not be able to produce seeds to grow.

Without bees, we wouldn't have many plants and animals that feed on them, such as birds, wasps and spiders, would go hungry. Without bees to pollinate then, less plants would grow each year. They are very important animals, as well as very clever insects too! They communicate by dancing, using one dance to tell other bees in the hive that they have found food and another dance to describe how far away food is from the hive and in which direction the other bees should fly to get there.



Bees need our help; they are dying, all over the world. This is due to a number of reasons, including use of pesticides (poisons used to kill harmful bugs that eat and destroy crops), destruction of their habitats (where they live) and climate change.

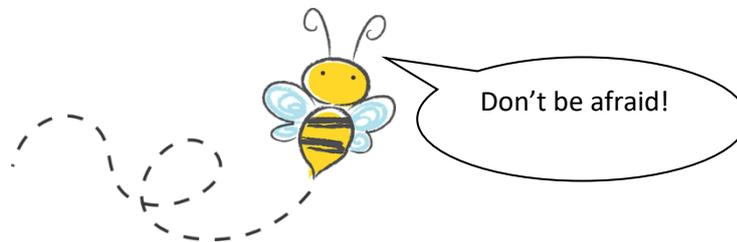




## Learn along with Kelly

### What can we do to help bees?

First of all, don't be afraid of them. A bee sting can hurt but they only sting when they really have no other choice as they almost always die after stinging someone.



In very warm weather, bees can dehydrate (lose a large amount of water), losing their ability to fly. If they can't fly, it becomes very difficult for them to find shade or water. Building a bee stop in your garden can help bees from becoming dehydrated as they can stop and drink when visiting your garden looking for flowers. Also, if you find a dying bee in hot weather, you can mix two tablespoons of granulated sugar with a tablespoon of water and feed it to the bee to try to help it back to health.



You can also have plants in your garden that bees love, such as lavender and buddleia.

In the last 120 years, the UK has lost 13 species of bees and 35 more are now endangered. We need to do everything we can to keep these stripy little insects around.

**We need to save the bees!**