

Non-Fiction 2 — Bees

Bees are insects that have six legs and two pairs of wings. They are usually black with bits of yellow or orange, and their bodies are covered in hair. You can often hear bees coming because they make a buzzing sound when they fly.

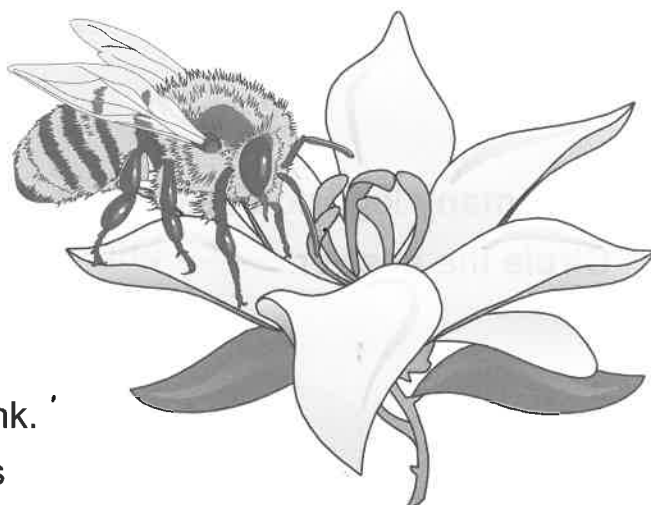
A bee sting

You might be scared of getting stung by a bee, but they usually only sting when they are frightened. Sudden movements, such as waving your arms at them, can scare them. If you stay still, there's less chance they will be scared by you.

What bees eat and drink

Bees get their food from flowers. They are attracted to flowers which have a strong smell and are brightly coloured. Their favourite flowers are coloured yellow, blue or purple.

Inside the middle of the flowers is a sugary liquid called nectar, which the bees then drink. Bees' tongues are hairy, so the nectar sticks easily to their tongues when they lick it up.



Next, bees use some of the nectar to make honey. They then store this honey in their nests and then eat it over the winter, when there are no flowers for them to get food from. People can collect and eat this honey too — you might even have had it on toast!

Bees dance

It's hard to believe, but some bees dance! They wiggle themselves from side to side to show other bees where to find the best food. The longer they wiggle for, the further away they are from food. This dance is known as the 'waggle dance'.

Bees need help

Life is hard for bees at the moment, as there are fewer flowers around than there used to be. If bees can't get enough food from flowers, they can't survive. So it will help bees out if we plant more flowers.