

# All About Bees

## Habitats

Bees can be found all over the world except in Antarctica.

Some types of bees live in large groups called 'colonies'.



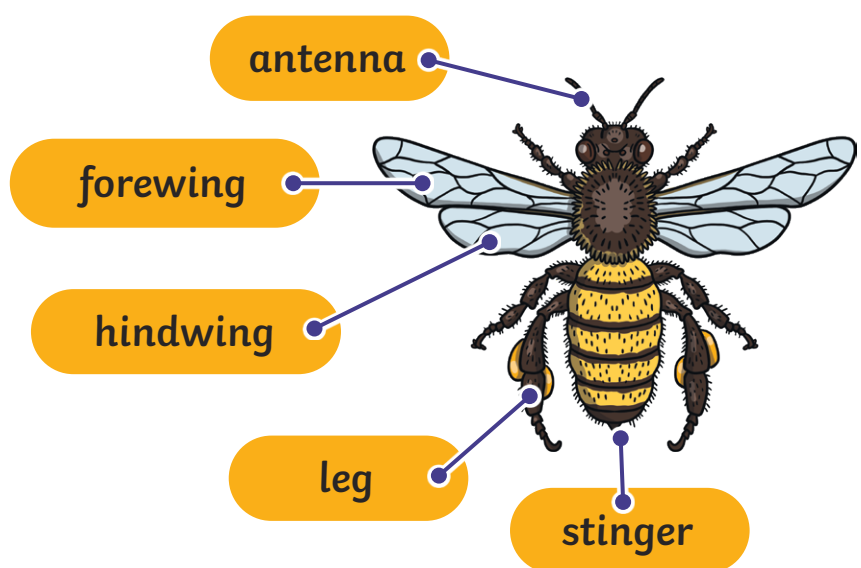
There can be around 50,000 bees in one colony!

Other types of bees live alone. These are called 'solitary bees'. These bees live underground, in trees or in small holes.

## Appearance

Bees are a type of insect. They have four wings – one pair of large wings at the front and one pair of smaller wings at the back.

Only female bees have stingers. If they feel threatened, they will sting to protect themselves or their nest.

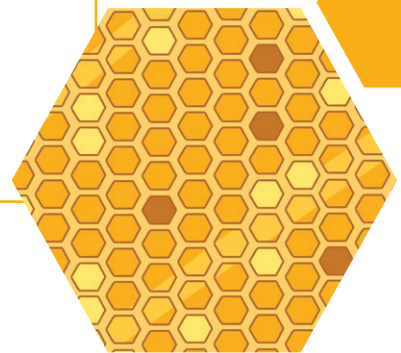


### Diet

Bees get most of their food from plants.

Bees like to eat nectar and pollen from flowers. Nectar is a sticky liquid. It is very sugary and gives the bees energy. Pollen is a yellow powder.

When bees visit flowers, they pick up and drop pollen from one flower onto another. The plant then uses this pollen to make new seeds. This is called 'pollination'.



### Types of Bees

There are around 25,000 different types of bees! In the UK, you might see mason bees, leaf-cutter bees and mining bees, among others.



**mason bee**



**leaf-cutter bee**



**mining bee**

The most common types of bees are honeybees and bumblebees though.

### Honeybees

Most honeybees live in an apiary. This is a collection of beehives (nests) that were made by people.

Honeybees make honey so that they have something to eat in winter. This is because there are fewer flowers to feed from.



#### Did You Know...?

Honeybees perform something called the 'waggle dance'. This is a way of moving their bodies to tell other bees where they can find lots of food.

### Bumblebees

Bumblebees like to live in areas with lots of flowers. They live in nests in dark places, such as bird boxes and thick grass. Some types of bumblebees build their nests underground.

Bumblebees are excellent pollinators. This is because pollen sticks more easily to their fuzzy bodies.

#### Did You Know...?

Bumblebees have smelly feet! They use this smell to tell each other apart.



# Questions

## All About Bees

1. What is the name of the yellow powder made by flowers? **Tick one.**  
☐ honey  
☐ nectar  
☐ pollen
2. In your own words, what do female bees use their stinger for?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Find and copy the **noun** that is used for animals that pollinate plants.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Draw four lines to match each word with its meaning.

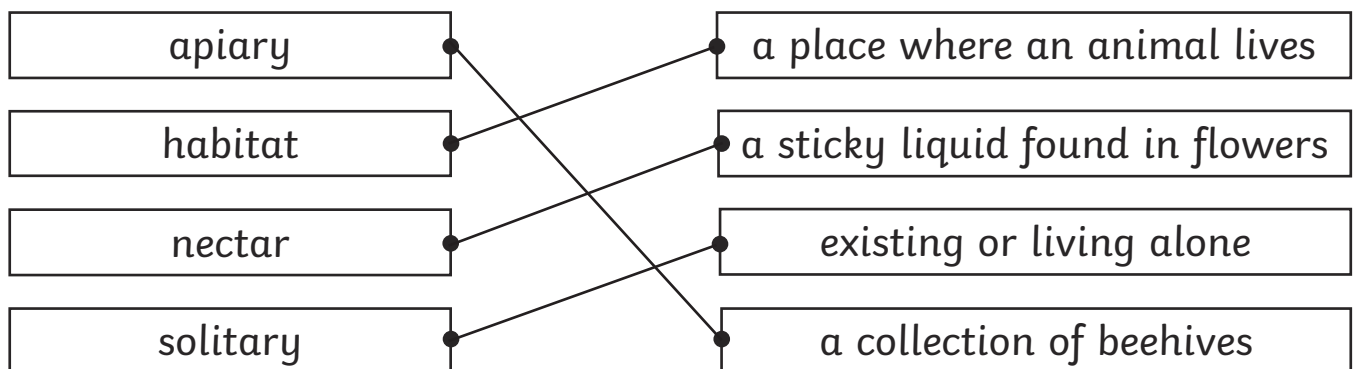
apiary	• a place where an animal lives
habitat	• a sticky liquid found in flowers
nectar	• existing or living alone
solitary	• a collection of beehives
5. What is the 'waggle dance'?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you think it's important that bees pollinate flowers? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Answers

## All About Bees

1. What is the name of the yellow powder made by flowers? **Tick one.**  
☐ honey  
☐ nectar  
☒ **pollen**
2. In your own words, what do female bees use their stinger for?  
**to protect themselves and their nest (Accept any version of this.)**
3. Find and copy the **noun** that is used for animals that pollinate plants.  
**pollinators**
4. Draw four lines to match each word with its meaning.



5. What is the 'waggle dance'?  
**the way honeybees move their bodies to tell other bees where they can find lots of food (Accept any version of this.)**
6. Do you think it's important that bees pollinate flowers? Why?  
**Children's own answers.**