

# BEES

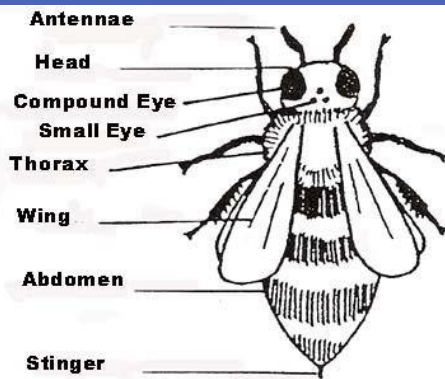
## KEY INFORMATION



Bees belong to the largest insect order which also includes wasps and ants. Bees originate from Asia and Africa, however they can survive almost everywhere, except in polar regions, such as the Arctic and Antarctic. They can be found in every habitat on the planet that contains flowering dicotyledons. There are more than 20,000 different species of bees around the world and more than 250 species in the UK.

Bees play an important role in pollinating flowering plants. Their jobs include housekeeping, feeding the queen, drones and larvae, collecting the pollen and nectar and making the wax. Because bees work so hard, during the busy season worker bees live for only about 6 weeks.

## APPEARANCE



Bees are oval shaped with golden colours and brown bands - although some have black bodies. They have short, thick bodies covered with hair, they have six legs and three body parts: head, thorax and the abdomen. They have two pairs of wings, the back pair being the smaller of the two.

Female worker bees are shorter and more slender than drones and the Queen, and their back legs have special baskets to help them collect pollen

## DIET

Bees are adapted for feeding on nectar and pollen. Nectar is used as an energy source and pollen used primarily for protein and other nutrients. Most pollen is used as a food for larvae (the stage after an insect has developed from an egg before it changes into its adult form).

## FUN FACTS

A honeybee can fly up to 20 miles per hour. Bees have stingers, but they can only sting mammals once and then they die because their stinger is left behind. However, they can sting other insects repeatedly to protect the hive.

The buzzing noise from a bee is created from their wings because they flap around 230 times per second. The Queen bee can lay up to 2000 eggs within a single day.



Find Out More...

<https://animalcorner.org/animals/bees/>

<https://bees.techno-science.ca/english/bees/life-in-a-hive/worker-bee.php>

<https://honeybeenet.gsfc.nasa.gov/Honeybees/Basics.htm>

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EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. Bees are which type of animal?
2. Where can't bees survive?
3. What is a bee's job?
4. How far can a honeybee fly up to?
5. Why do bees make a buzzing noise?