

Busy Bees

There are lots of busy bees enjoying the sunshine at the moment. We have 270 species of bees in Britain! As well as the better known honeybees and bumblebees, there are plenty of other bees with names such as Tawny Mining Bee, Hairy Footed Flower Bee and Yellow Faced Bees!



Go on a bee hunt

To spot bees, you'll need to find a place with plenty of flowers such as your local park or green space, or your garden if you have one.

It's not a good idea to try and catch bees, as they might sting you, but if you watch them without disturbing them, they won't sting you and you can get quite close.

Bumblebees are larger and more furry than other types of bees, so they are a good one to look out for. Surrey Wildlife Trust have a [bee spotter sheet](#) or for a more detailed look at bees check out the [Woodland Trust bee page](#).



Be a Bee

Bees and flowers help each other. Bees are looking for pollen, which is the yellow dust inside the flower. Buzz around like a bee, and gently wiggle your little finger into a flower, and take a look, you might have collected some pollen like a bee. Flowers need bees to pollinate them, which helps them produce seeds. With the pollen on your finger, move it into another flower of the same type. Well done - you have just pollinated a flower!

Help the bees

Bees don't just provide us with honey. Bees pollinate our fruit and vegetable crops. So without bees we wouldn't have strawberries, apples, tomatoes and much much more!

To help the bees get enough to eat, we need to plant some flowers to provide them with juicy nectar and yummy pollen. Even a pot of sage on your window sill is enough to feed many honeybees.

The [rspb](#) and [Woodland Trust](#) both have good suggestions for planting flowers to attract bees to your balcony or garden.

Make up a waggle dance

Honeybees work together in their hive. If one bee finds a really good patch of flowers, they perform a waggle dance to tell the other bees where to find it. It's called a waggle dance because the bee waggles her abdomen (bottom) from side to side as she dances round in circles.

Hide a jar of honey (or any other treat) somewhere in your house or garden. Make up your own waggle dance to try and tell your family where it is - no talking, just dancing!

Build a bee home

Apart from honeybees and bumblebees, most bees do not live in a nest or hive, they are called solitary bees. Some of them like to live in little holes where they lay their eggs.

You can make a simple bee home by cutting bamboo canes into short lengths, tie them tightly together then hang it in a tree in sunny place. If you want to have a go at some drilling, get a grown up to help you drill different size holes in a log or piece of wood and leave this in a sunny spot.



For a more sturdy version, follow the [Wildlife Trust instructions](#).