

Some Bee Facts

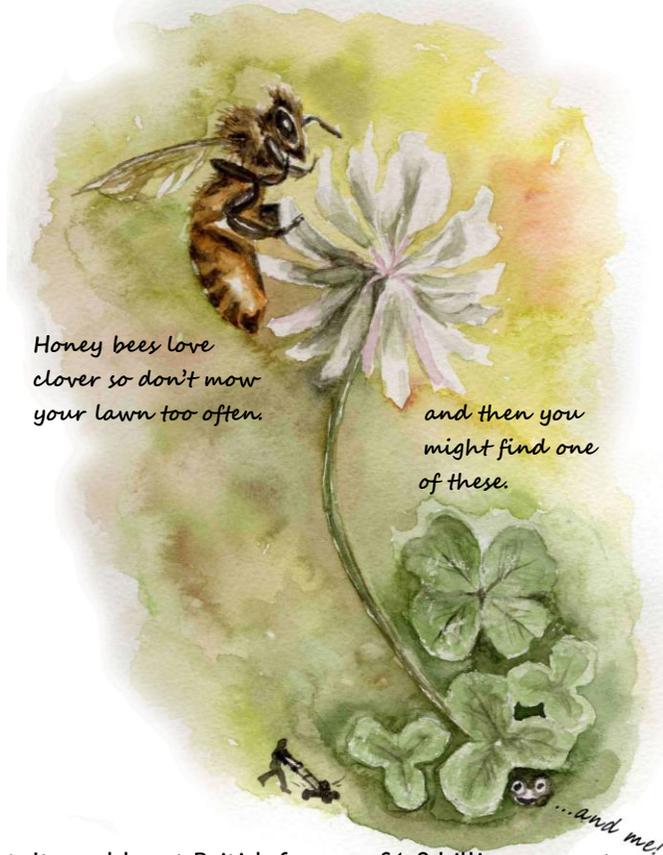
- ▶ Bees get nectar from flowers. In return they pollinate flowers to produce seeds, fruit and nuts.
- ▶ Bees pollinate 75% of our crops.
- ▶ One quarter of our bees are threatened.

The good news is that you can help

...by leaving areas of your garden to grow wild, or planting nectar-rich flowers (in a pot if you don't have a garden).

You can find good plants to grow at:

www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/encourage-wildlife-to-your-garden/plants-for-pollinators



▶ It would cost British farmers £1.8 billion a year to pollinate their crops without bees, increasing the cost of food. Causing their decline are habitat loss, disease, climate change and pesticides.

▶ There are over 250 different species of bee in the UK eg Garden Bumblebees have large furry black and yellow bodies; Red-tailed Bumblebees are mainly black with red tail ends.

▶ Many ornamental flowers have been bred to look good but have little or no nectar for bees.

▶ Dumbledore in 'Harry Potter' is a Cornish word for Bumblebee.



Keep Looking for Bees

Take a Bee Walk, looking for bees and bee friendly plants.

What to take:

- Log book / paper and pens
- Magnifying glass / binoculars / camera
- Box or bag for collecting things.

▶**Spring/early summer.** Look for nectar-rich wild flowers that bees love. Some that grow in the chalk soil of The Chilterns are dandelions, primroses, cowslips, daisies, self heal, herb robert, red and white clover, red and white campion, bird's foot trefoil. Beech woods have bluebells and foxgloves. Look for flowers in trees too, like crab apple and wild cherry.

▶**Late summer/autumn.** Look for scabious, mallow, thistle, rosebay willowherb, bramble. There are many more on the Wycombe FOE website.

In summer, bees will be 'working plants' collecting pollen and nectar. This is a good opportunity to explain pollination and the importance of bees to children.

Bee and butterfly jokes :

- Q. Why are A's like flowers?
- Q. What did the bee say to the naughty bee ?
- Q. How does a queen bee get around her hive ?
- Q. What's black, yellow and covered in blackberries ?
- Q. Who writes books for little bees ? Answers below.

Activities for children

Try and find:

- 20 forget-me-nots, or 20 buttercups, or 20 daisies or a mixture of these. Other small, fairly flat flowers will be fine but those above press very well and are common.
- About 10 small thin leaves that are different from each other - interesting shapes are best. Pick them up from the ground rather than picking them from a tree, unless they're from your garden.
- Take the flowers and leaves and put them between absorbent papers inside an old book to press them. Make sure they don't touch each other. Put a heavy weight on them, such as other books, and leave them for 2 weeks.

Make a card for someone special

- Take a piece of A4 card and fold it carefully in half, matching the corners to make a greetings card.
- Making sure it's on the front of your card, take your flowers and leaves and arrange them in a pattern or a picture.
- When you are happy with your design, carefully lift each one and glue it to the card - you only need a tiny amount of glue.
- Write a message on the inside of your card and give or send it to someone.

More environmental activities...

for primary school aged children can be found under 'Junior WFOE' on the home page of our website: www.wycombefoe.org.uk.

Answers to jokes:

1. Because bees come after them,
2. Bee-hive yourself.
3. She's throne!
4. A bramble bee
5. Bee-trix Potter.

Activities

Make a bee and butterfly drink

Butterflies are also good pollinators.



Look at our website for instructions
www.wycombefoe.org.uk/junior-foe

Ideas for walks and information:

► There are plenty of places to walk to look for bees, including your own neighbourhood or garden. Or find more walks in the High Wycombe area at www.wycombe.gov.uk and enter 'woodlands and nature reserves' into search box to get a list of great walks.

► Look at environmental information, talks and activities in the Wycombe area:

Wycombe Friends of the Earth :

www.wycombefoe.org.uk

Wycombe Wildlife Group :

www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk

Wycombe Bee Keepers Assoc :

www.hwbka.co.uk

Wycombe Environment Centre :

www.ecobuzz.org.uk

British Beekeepers Association :

www.bbka.org.uk (includes art/craft ideas)

National Friends of the Earth:

www.foe.co.uk and click on 'What we do', then 'The Bee Cause' to learn more and **find out how you can help save the bees.**

Observe Closely and Draw

Increase children's observation skills; ask questions such as:

- What does the ground/sky look like?
- What can you smell/hear?
- How are these flowers different from underneath/inside?

Encourage children to look and touch carefully. What is the bee doing? Look closely at the bee's colourings. What type of bee is it? Children can draw or photograph it.

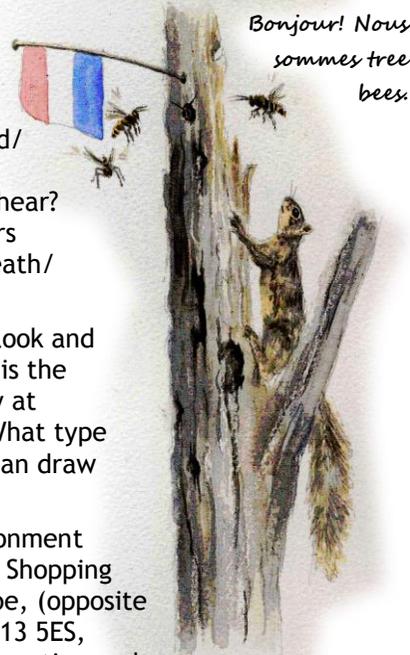
► Visit Wycombe Environment Centre in the Chilterns Shopping Centre in High Wycombe, (opposite 'The Card Factory') HP13 5ES, for environmental information and holiday activities for children.

More WEC information at: www.ecobuzz.org.uk

► Many of the greatest wonders of life go by unnoticed. The more we practise noticing, observing and getting to know our natural neighbours, the greater our abilities and understanding will grow.



The flowers in catkins are important food for the emerging Queen bee during March and April.



Bonjour! Nous sommes tree bees.



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Facts about Bees and **NEW** Activities and jokes for Families and Children plus Walks in the High Wycombe Area.

www.wycombefoe.org.uk



Bumble bees have long tongues to get inside foxglove flowers.

Also, did you know that men bumble bees have bigger bottoms than lady bumble bees?



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