

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.



Honey bees love clover so don't mow your lawn too often.

and then you might find one of these.

- ▶ 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.

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



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?

Keep Looking for Bees

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

▶**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 spring and 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 :

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

Activity for children

Make a pattern outside - a simple activity for all ages.

Collect some natural materials from your garden or the park or when you are out on a walk. Make sure they vary in colour and shapes. Leaves have lots of different colours and shapes. Then make a pattern with them on a paving slab or on your lawn or on a piece of card or paper.

Here is an example:



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.

Activity

Grow a tree for wildlife

Trees are one of nature's best 'inventions', offering song perches, nesting sites, safe retreats, blossom, foliage and highways in the sky. They are simply brilliant for wildlife!

Choose the right ones (and there are trees for every size of garden, including balconies), and they will offer so much food and shelter for wildlife. Plus they will store carbon, helping in their own way to combat climate change. And planting a tree is a great way to mark a special occasion!

There are trees for pots, like patio fruit trees or clipped holly, as well as for gardens.

Lots of activities to help wildlife at:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/> and click on 'kids and schools'.

Useful information:

► 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

British Beekeepers Association :

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

Bucks, Berks and Oxon Wildlife Trust

<http://www.bbowt.org.uk/>

Revive the Wye

<https://revivethewye.org.uk/>

The Chiltern Society

<https://chilternsociety.org.uk/>

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.**

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Observe Closely and Draw

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.

Walks promoted by local organisations

► Look up Wycombe Wildlife Group at www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk/ for details of local woods and nature reserves.

► Look up The Chiltern Society at <https://chilternsociety.org.uk/free-walks-leaflets/> for more free walks information.

► Find out about the River Wye at <https://revivethewye.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.



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

www.wycombefoe.org.uk



Walks

There are plenty of places to walk to look for bees, butterflies and wild flowers, including your own neighbourhood or garden. Or find more walks in the High Wycombe area at websites of local organisations (see inside this leaflet).