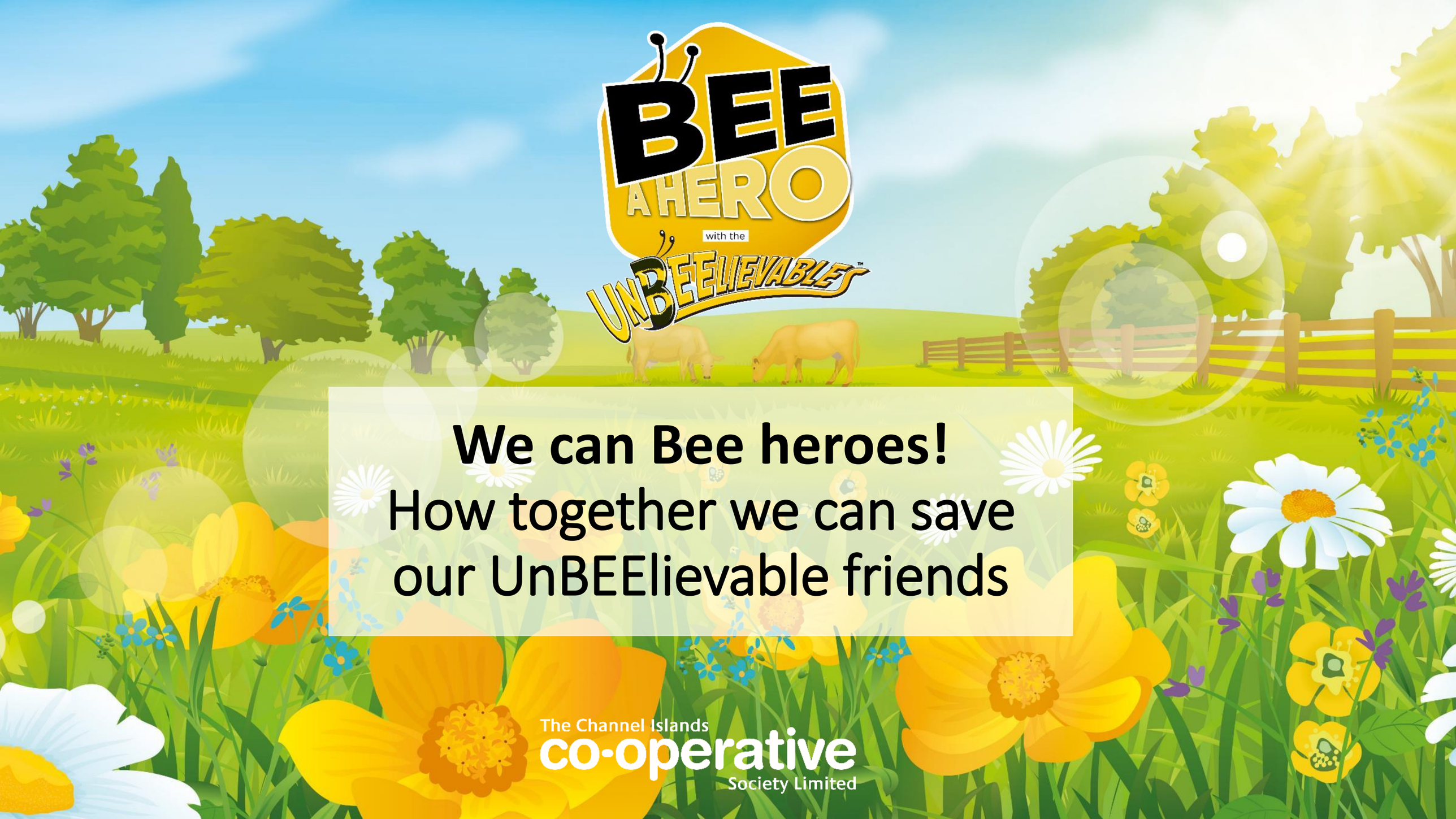


We can Bee heroes!

How together we can save our UnBEElievable friends

The Channel Islands co-operative Society Limited

How much do you know about bees?

- What do bees look like?
- How many different types of bees are there?
- Why do we need bees?
- What would happen if there weren’t any bees?

Body Parts of a Bee

Thorax

Wings

Head

Abdomen

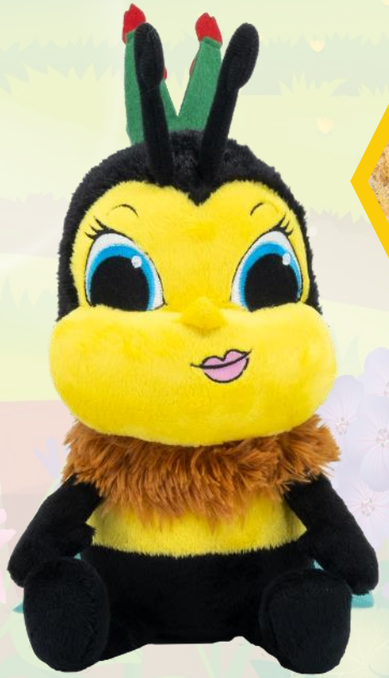
Antennae

Stinger (only on females)

6 jointed legs

Have you met the UNBEELIEVABLES™ yet?

QueenyBeez



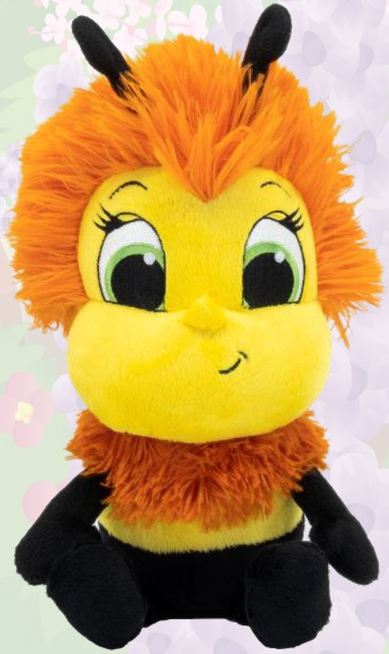
Queen
Honeybee

BeeBeez

Worker
Honeybee

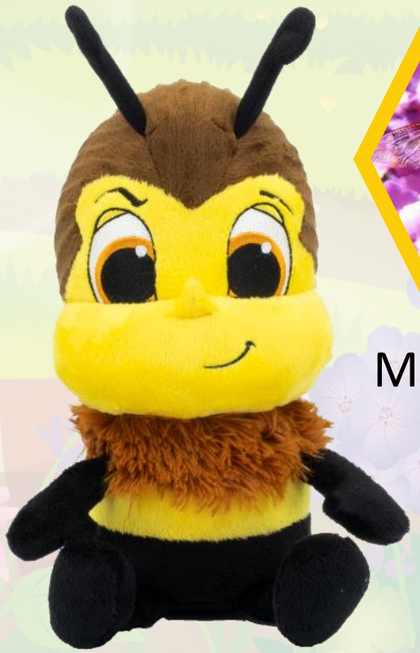
Red-tail
Bumblebee

Rubee



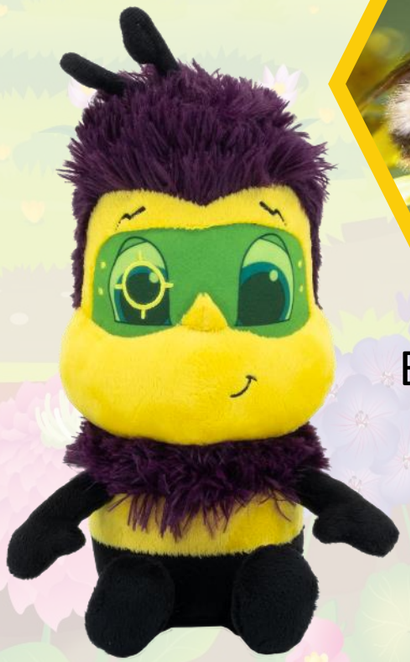
Have you met the UNBEELIEVABLES™ yet?

Swarmzee



Male Honeybee (drone)

Beep



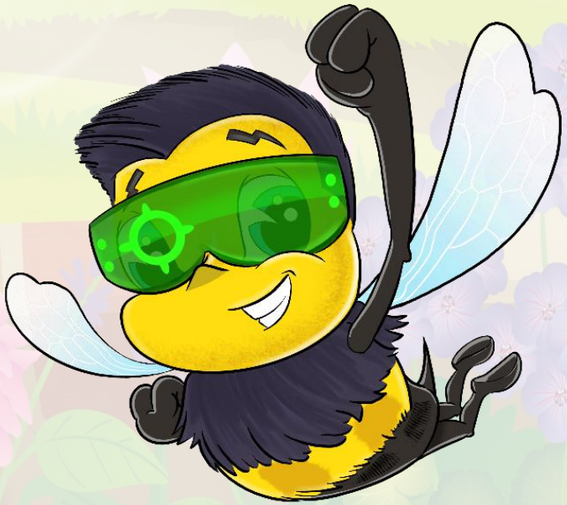
Garden Bumblebee

Buff-tailed Bumblebee

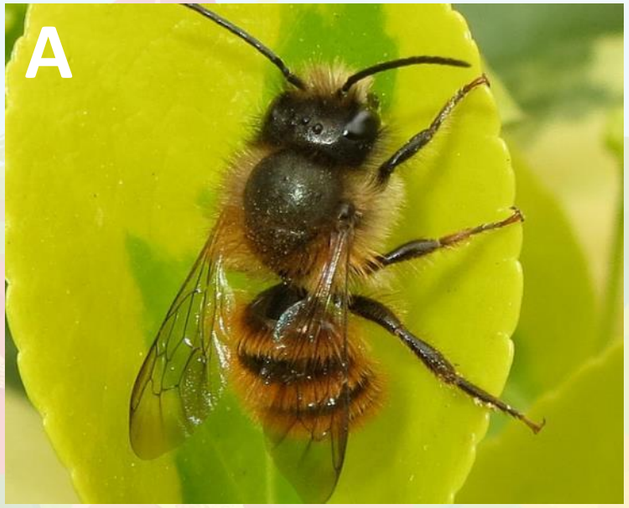
Bumbuleez

But our bees have superpowers

Just like the Unbeelievables!

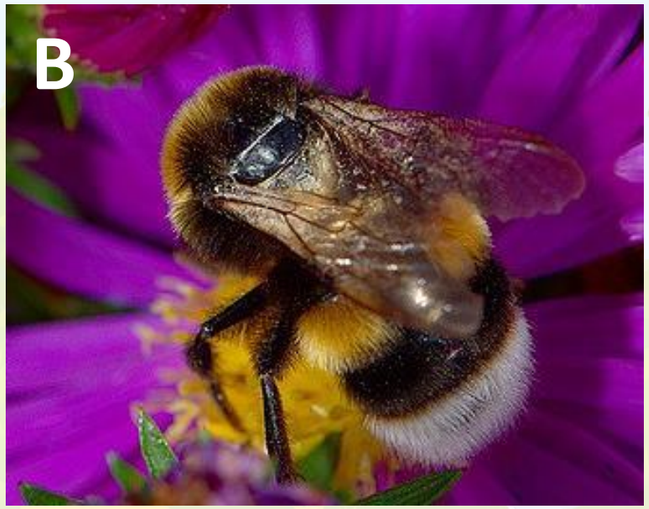


Get to know your bees with these facts



SOLITARY BEES

- Live alone rather than in colonies
- Build nests in trees, underground or sheltered spots
- Drink nectar from flower and collect some for their young
- Excellent pollinators
- Common species include leaf cutter bee and red mason bee



BUMBLEBEES

- Very social – live in colonies
- Eat nectar and pollen
- ‘Typical’ bee appearance, large, furry with black and yellow pattern
- Common species include garden, buff-tailed, red-tailed, white-tailed and field bumblebees

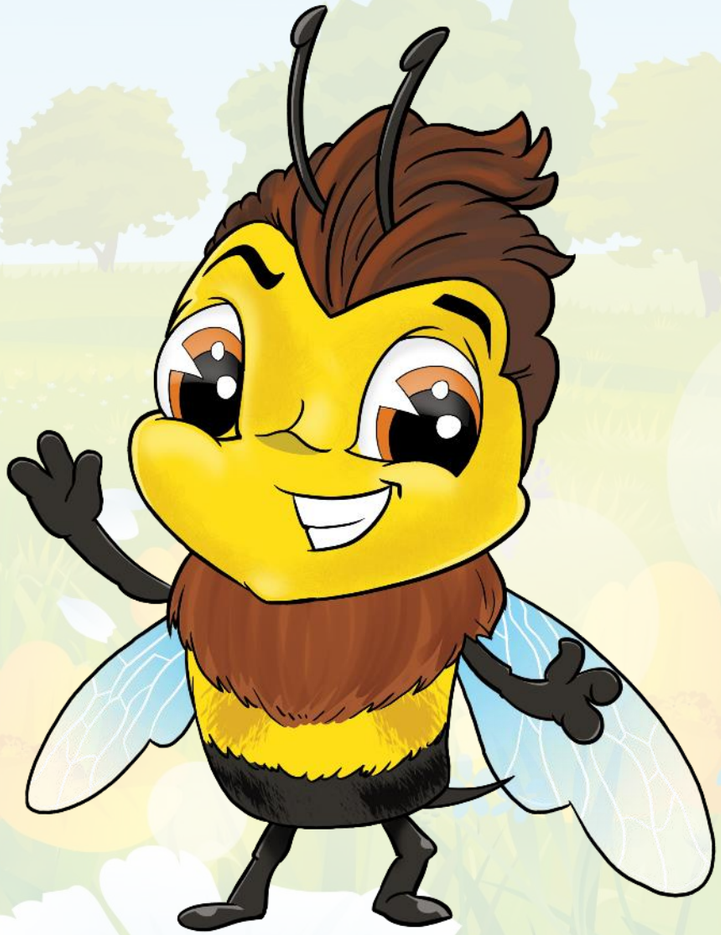
HONEYBEES

- Most recognisable of all bees
- A social bee, lives in hives with hundreds of other bees
- Make honey from pollen and nectar from flowers
- Raised by a single Queen bee

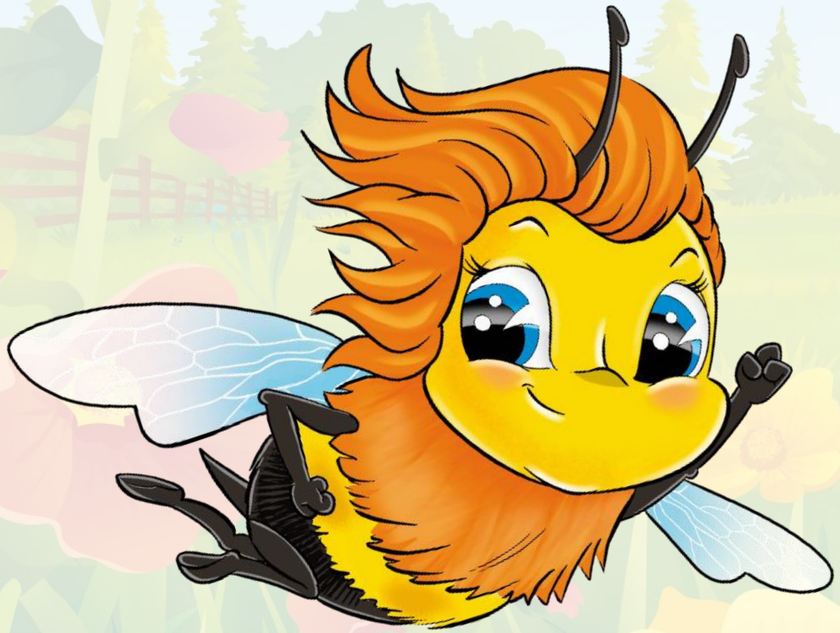
Get to know your bees with these facts

There may be just six of our Unbeelievable friends, but in reality, there are nearly **20,000** known species of bee around the world.

250 of these can be found in the UK.



Get to know your bees with these facts



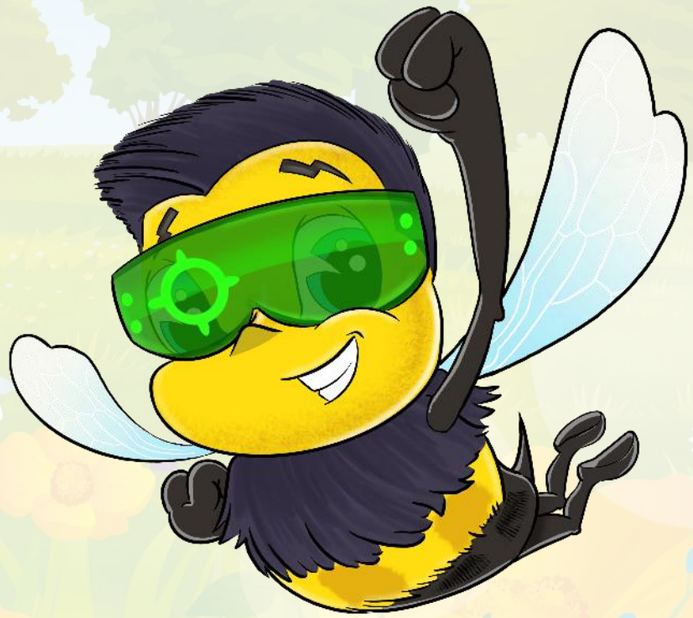
A bee can flap its wings at around 240 times a second!

This helps them fly super high and power through the air, as well as being the reason for their distinctive ‘buzzing’ sound.

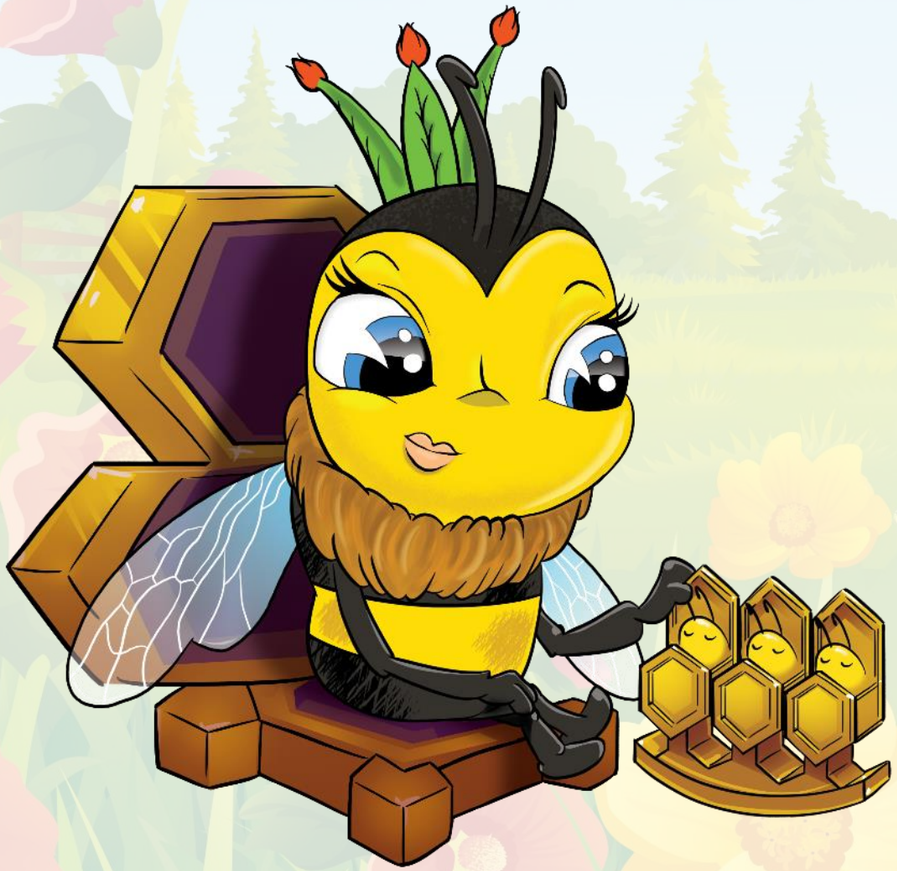
Get to know your bees with these facts

Bees have super senses (otherwise known as Electroreception) which can help them sense the invisible electric charge in the air around flowers.

This special vision makes finding nectar much easier.



Get to know your bees with these facts

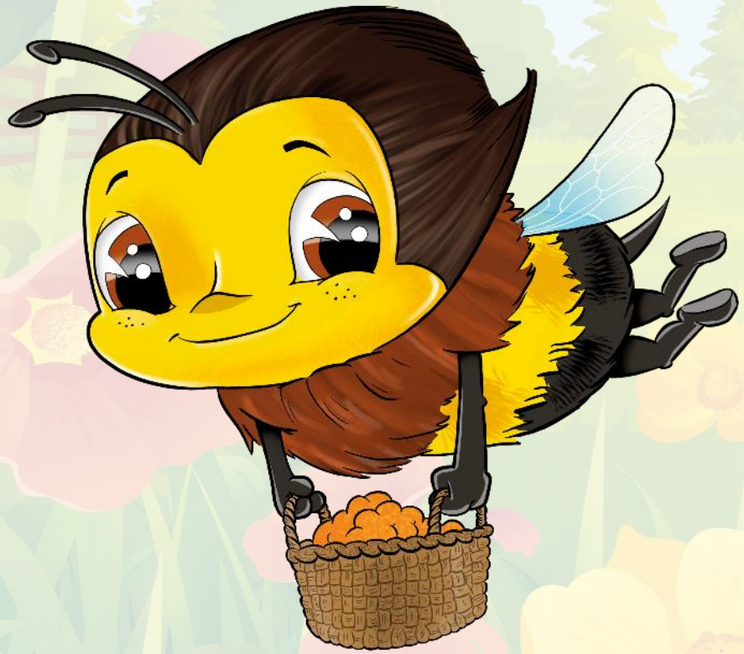


There’s only one queen bee.

She is the largest of the bees in the colony and her role is to produce the next generation of bees.

She can lay up to **2,000** eggs a day

Get to know your bees with these facts



Bumblebees are strong

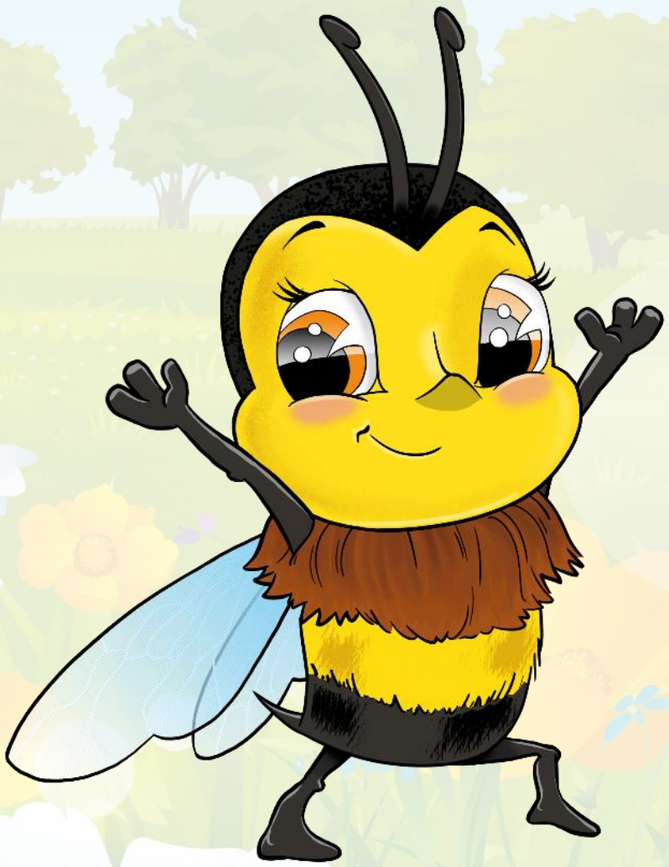
They are able to carry up to half their own body weight in pollen

But Bumblebees do not make honey – that’s the job of the honeybees

Get to know your bees with these facts

Honeybees are hard-working bees. They can visit around **2,000** flowers a day

That is a lot of visits to and from the hive!



They also have a clever trick of letting other bees know where to find pollen.

Do you know what it’s called?

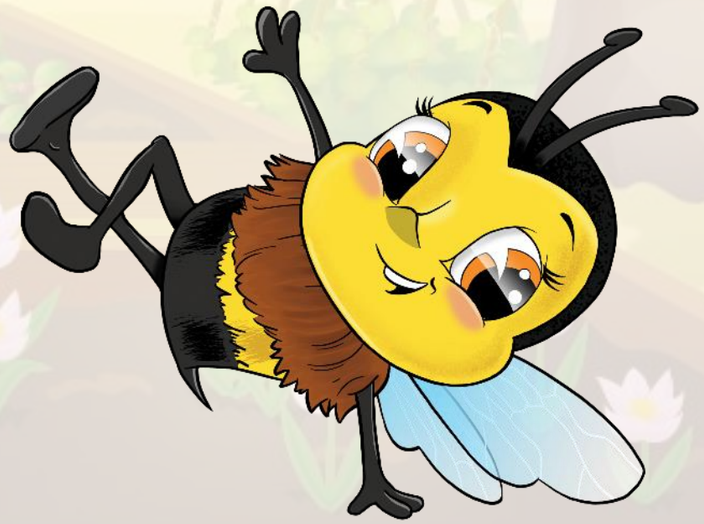
The Waggle dance!

Let’s dance!

In small groups, could you share a message like honeybees through dancing and miming?

Choose one of the messages below, or make up your own (but talking isn’t allowed!)

- ‘There’s lots of pollen over here’
- ‘We’ve found a water source to drink’
- ‘Check out this great place for our new hive’
- ‘Watch out! Danger!’
- ‘Our Queen bee is missing!’



If bees didn’t exist in our world, it would look like a very different place and our lives would not be the same.

These are just some of the plants that are pollinated by bees. Which would you miss the most?

Apples Mangos Kiwi Fruit Plums Peaches Nectarines

Cranberries Pears Black and Red Currants Strawberries

Onions Cashews Apricots Avocados Passion Fruit Kidney Beans

Green Beans Cherries Guava Celery Coffee Walnut

Lychee Macadamia Nuts Sunflower Oil Lemons Figs

Limes Carrots Cucumber Hazelnut Coriander Grapes

Chestnut Watermelon Coconut Tangerines Brazil Nuts

Rapeseed Broccoli Cauliflower Cabbage Brussels Sprouts

Turnips Chili Peppers Red and Green Peppers Papaya Tomatoes

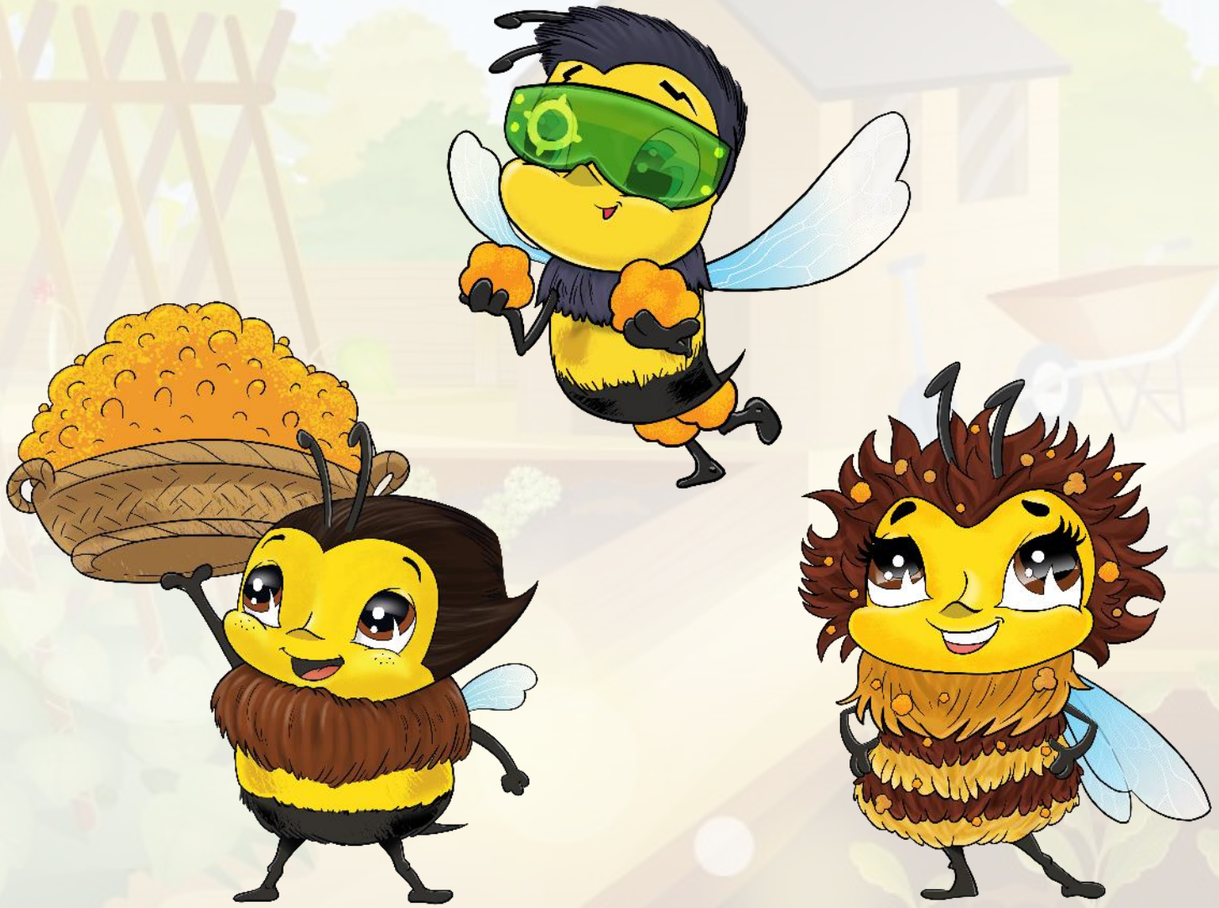
Raspberries Elderberries Blackberries Cocoa Vanilla

The power of pollination

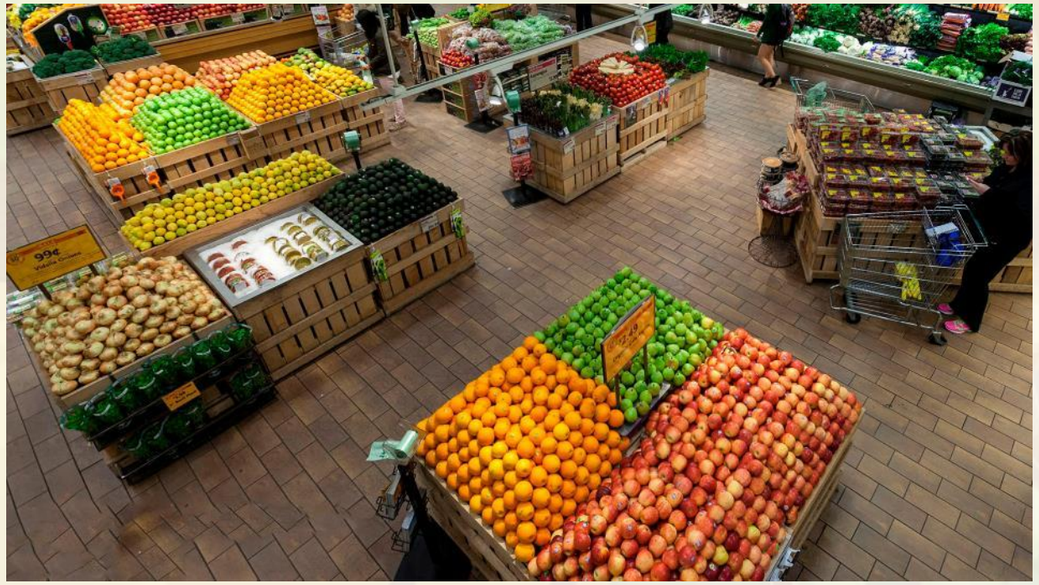
Bees are expert pollinators

As they buzz about drinking nectar or collecting pollen, bees transfer pollen grains from the anthers (pollen-producing parts) of flowers to the stigma (pollen-collecting part).

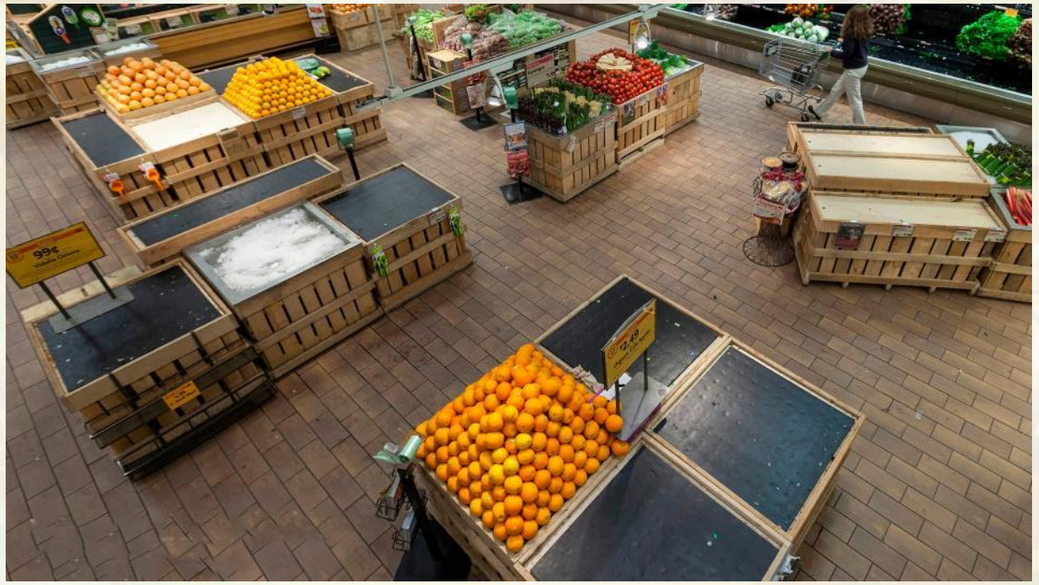
This pollinates the plant and it goes on to produce seed and more flowers



This is why bees are important



A fully stocked supermarket produce section thanks to our bee friends

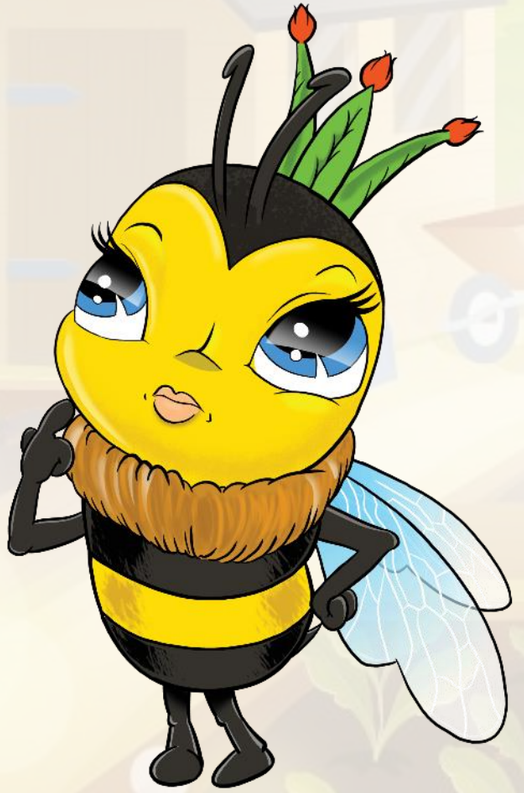


How the same supermarket would look if we didn’t have the help of our bee superheroes

But our fuzzy, buzzy friends need your help

Our bees are in danger

Can you think of some of the biggest dangers that affect bees?



Examples of risk to bee populations

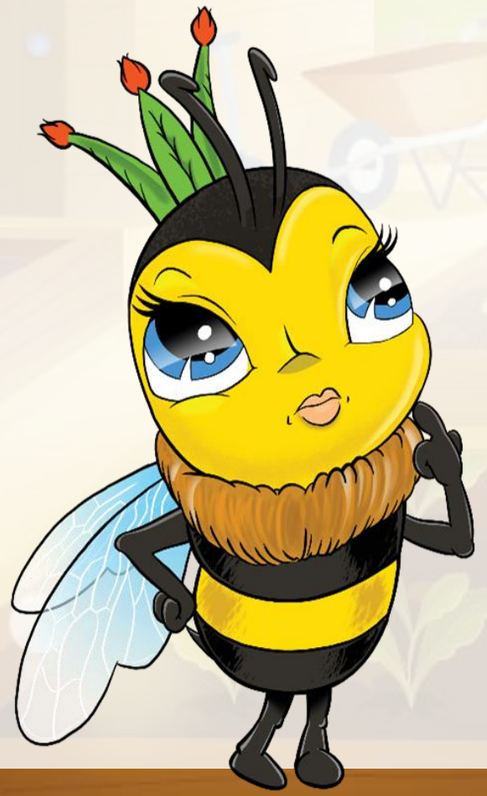
- The growth of human towns and cities means there’s less space than ever for bees to nest and feed in peace.
- New houses and roads create barriers between green spaces, which means many bees have longer journeys to reach food.
- Bees love wildflower meadows, grasslands and hedgerows – but modern farms don’t always include these bee-friendly features.
- Chemicals that people use on the land, such as pesticides and weedkillers, can be harmful to bees and the plants they visit.
- Climate change might affect when and where flowering plants bloom, meaning that some bees could be left with nothing to eat.

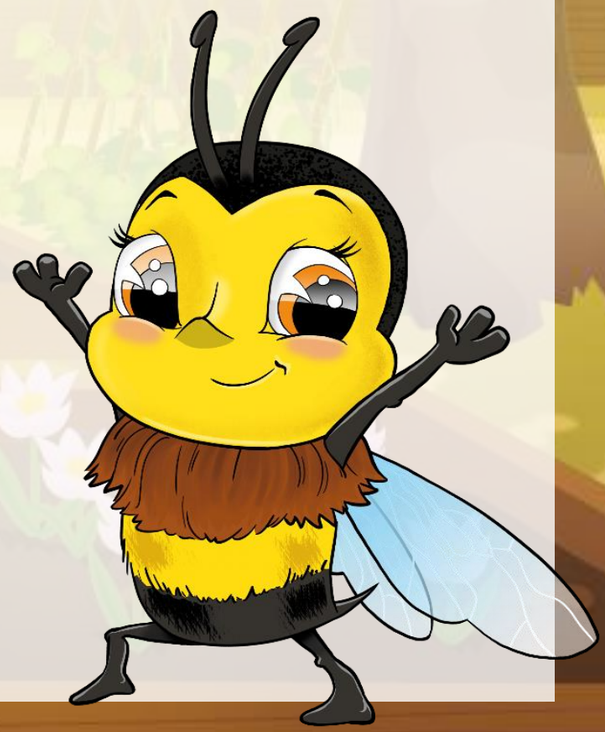
A world without bees means…

A world without bees means:

- Fewer flowers, trees and plants
- Less fruit and natural foods
- Fewer natural products like cotton (used to make your clothes!)
- Fewer birds and small mammals
- No honey

What can we do to help our bees?





What can we do to help our bees?

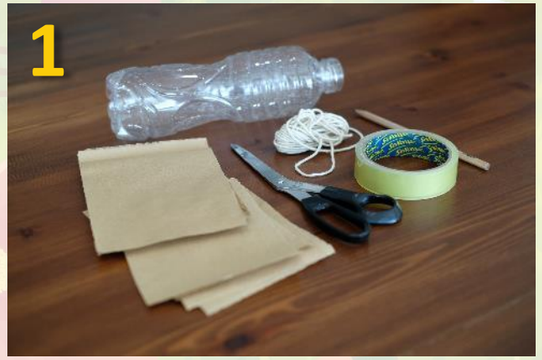
Planting bee-friendly flowers in your garden or window box will provide a food source for insects throughout the year.

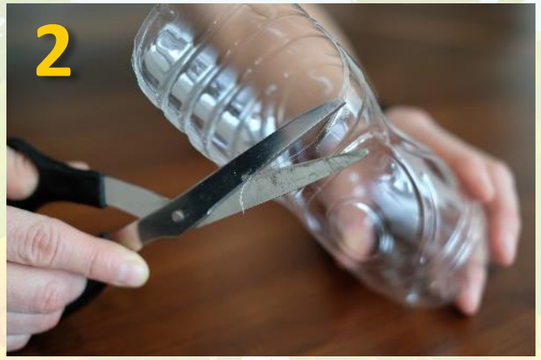
Leaving a wild corner in your garden or an untrimmed patch of lawn creates space for flowering weeds to grow and ground-nesting bees to live.

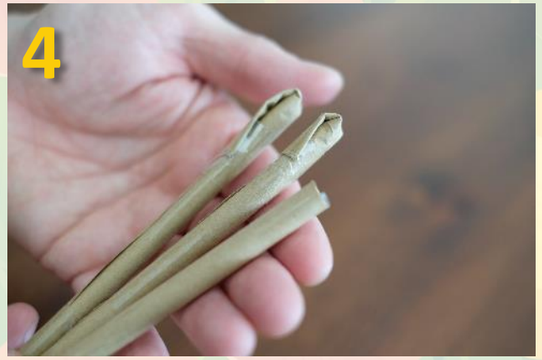
Planting trees, creating nature reserves and supporting local parks will help countless species including bees

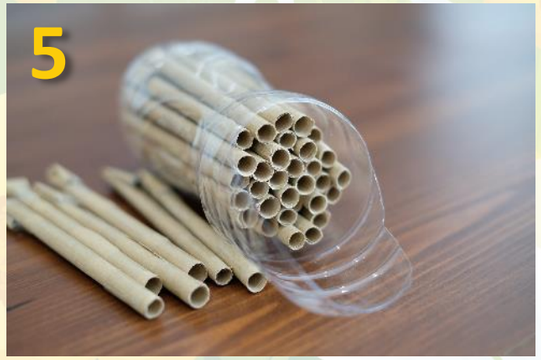
Make your own Bee Hotel

Solitary bees don’t live in a hive, instead they like to live by themselves and take shelter in small spaces. You can help them out by creating your own Bee Hotel for them to stay safe.









What we now know about bees thanks to the UNBEELIEVABLES™

- Bees live in the wild – in gardens and the countryside.
- The best habitat for them is with plenty of wildflowers as they depend on them for food.
- Bees are the superheroes that we rely on every day of the week for all of our favourite foods.