A SPARKATLAS PACK FOR LITTLE NATURALISTS

Busy Bees

Meet the honey bee up close, follow its life cycle, move like a bee and count flower visitors.



APIS MELLIFERA

INSIDE THIS PACK

02 Grown-up guide: one minute to read
03 Bee fun facts: look closer
04 From egg to bee: a life cycle
05 Be a bee: a movement game
06 Flower watch: who comes to visit?

YOU'LL NEED

crayons or coloured pencils

paper, child-safe scissors, glue

flowers on a warm, sunny day

TIME

About 10 minutes a page

Our bee watch

Date _____ Where we looked _____

Today's weather · Circle one ◯ sunny ◯ cloudy ◯ rainy ◯ windy

AGES Sprout 2–3 Seedling 3–5 Sapling 5–7 Each activity page shows its band.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Bees are small, busy and easy to watch. Looking closely at a real insect, then moving like one, turns facts into something a child feels and remembers.

Before You Meet the Bees

A one-minute read for grown-ups.

How to use it (about 10 minutes a page)

1. **Start with a real bee.**
   If you can, watch one on a flower first. Then open the fun facts.
2. **Read the pictures.**
   Point to the eyes, wings and legs and let your child tell you what they see.
3. **Get moving.**
   Play the bee game indoors or out. Silly is good.
4. **Stop while it's fun.**
   One page is plenty. Come back another day.

Three ways to play

Sprout 2–3

Point to the bee pictures, buzz and fly in the game and colour the flowers.

Seedling 3–5

Say the four life-cycle stages, play every move and tally the flower visitors.

Sapling 5–7

Cut and order the life cycle, invent a bee move and compare bees with hoverflies.

Little safety notes

Watch bees from a step back and never touch or swat them. A calm bee on a flower is busy and rarely bothers people. Check for bee allergies first. Scissors need a grown-up nearby. Wash hands after the walk.

Printing tips

Page 1 is the cover. To save ink, print pages 2 to 6 only. Every page works in black and white, on Letter or A4.

Wonder out loud together

- Why might a bee need five eyes?
- What would you carry home in pollen baskets?
- How could you tell a friend where to find a flower without words?
- What do you think a bee does when it rains?

FOR GROWN-UPS

Some bees are still out on warm autumn days, especially on asters and goldenrod. If it's too cold, play the game indoors and save the flower watch for a sunny day.

Bee Fun Facts

Look closely at the honey bee.

Read one card at a time, then try the little challenge.

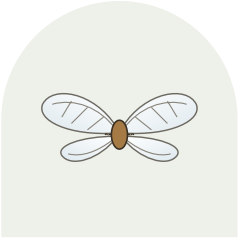


01

Five eyes

A honey bee has two big eyes and three tiny eyes on top of its head.

Find all five eyes in the picture.



02

Four wings

It has four wings. Tiny hooks join each pair together when it flies.

Hook your fingers together and flap.

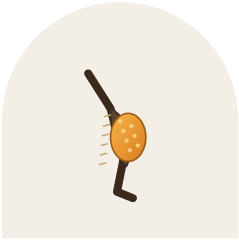


03

The buzz

The buzz is the sound of its wings beating over 200 times every second.

Hum a buzz. Now hum it high, then low.

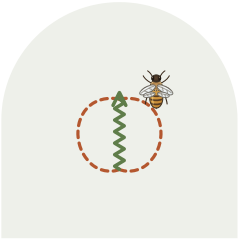


04

Pollen baskets

It carries pollen home in little baskets on its back legs.

Can you spot the orange pollen?



05

Waggle dance

A bee dances to show other bees which way to fly to find flowers.

Wiggle in a line, then loop back.



06

Favourite colours

Bees see blue, purple and yellow well. Red looks dark to them.

Find something a bee would love.

My own bee question: _____

FOR GROWN-UPS

Small, true facts with a picture to point at are easy for young children to hold on to. Each try-it line turns the fact into something they do with their body.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Pick one card a day and act it out together.
Stretch: Draw a bee with all five eyes, four wings and six legs.

From Egg to Bee

Follow the arrows around the circle.

Start at the egg and follow the arrows. Then cut out the cards below and put them in order.



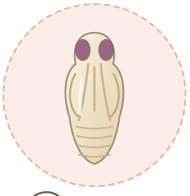
1 Egg

The queen lays one tiny egg in each wax cell.



2 Larva

After 3 days a larva hatches. Worker bees feed it.



3 Pupa

Bees cover the cell with wax. Inside, it grows legs, wings and eyes.



4 Bee

The new bee chews its way out of the cell.



21 days

from egg to worker bee

Cut out, mix up, then put in order. Write 1 to 4 in the circles.






FOR GROWN-UPS

A life cycle is a story with a beginning, middle and end. Putting the stages in order builds sequencing, a skill children use in reading, maths and planning.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Just say the names: egg, larva, pupa, bee.
Stretch: Act out each stage: tiny egg, wriggly larva, still pupa, flying bee.

Be a Bee

A game to play indoors or out.

Set up, then fly from flower to flower doing the moves. Tick each move you tried.

1. **Draw and cut out about 5 paper flowers.**
2. **Choose a spot for the hive.**
3. **Fly from the hive to a flower.**



Buzz

Flap your arms and hum.

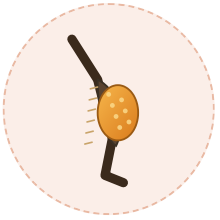
☐



Sip nectar

Sip with a pretend straw tongue.

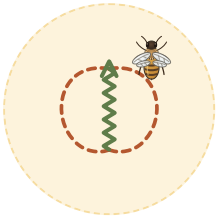
☐



Pack pollen

Pat your legs to pack the pollen.

☐



Waggle dance

Wiggle in a line, then loop back.

☐



Fly home

Zoom back to the hive and rest.

☐

My own move

Draw it, then teach it to someone.

Colour a flower for each one you visited.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Pretend play lets children try on how another creature lives. Hiding a flower and dancing the way to it is a first taste of giving directions.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Play with one flower and three moves.
Stretch: Hide a paper flower, then do a waggle dance to show where it is.

Flower Watch

Who comes to visit the flowers?

Sit near a patch of flowers for 5 minutes. Make a tally mark each time a visitor lands.

Guess first: who will visit most?

 Bee ☐  Hoverfly ☐  Butterfly ☐  Other ☐

VISITOR	TALLY MARKS	TOTAL
 Bee		
 Hoverfly		
 Butterfly		
 Something else		

Draw your flower and one visitor.

Bee or hoverfly?

- Hoverflies have 2 wings. Bees have 4.
- Hoverflies have short feelers. Bees have longer ones.
- Hoverflies can hang still in the air, then dart away.

FOR GROWN-UPS

Guessing, then counting, is how scientists work. Real watching also builds patience and attention, and shows that a garden is full of life.

PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Easier: Just count bees on your fingers.
Stretch: Watch two different flowers. Which one got more visitors?