

# THE HONEYBEE TREASURE HUNT DID YOU KNOW...?

There are three types of bee in every nest or hive. Workers are female and the busiest, building the hive, collecting pollen and nectar and making honey. Drones are male and their role is to mate with the queen. The queen is the biggest bee in the hive. She can live for up to six years, laying eggs and producing special chemicals that tell the other bees how to behave.

If a queen bee dies, the workers create a new queen by selecting a young lava and feeding it a special food called royal jelly. The young bee will develop into a fertile queen.



Honeybees are exceptional fliers. They fly at around 25 kilometres per hour and beat their wings 200 times per second.

Young worker bees convert the sugar in honey into wax, which oozes through their abdomens. Beeswax has been used throughout history for making candles, waterproofing materials, polishing wood and leather and even in make-up!

Bees play a crucial role in the world's ecosystem. They pollinate 80% of the world's plants, including ninety different food crops. In fact, one out of every three or four bites of food you eat is thanks to bees!

## Do you know any other facts about bees?

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Here are some ways you can help honeybee populations:

Plant a range of flowers in your garden, or in pots and window boxes. Honeybees especially love wildflowers, such as primroses and marigolds, and other flowers rich in nectar, like lavender.

Become a beekeeper! Not only is beekeeping a fun and exciting hobby, you get to collect and eat your own honey too!

If you see a swarm of bees, don't go near it, but contact your local authority, who will arrange for a local beekeeper to collect the swarm and take it somewhere safe.

Buy honey that is produced locally to support the honeybees and beekeepers where you live.

Chat to your family, friends and classmates about how amazing and important honeybees are. The more people know, the more they will do to try to protect them.



## What else could you do to help honeybees?

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It's time for your own mini adventure!  
What would you do if you shrunk down to the size of an insect?

Katy, Cassie, Zia and Luca met ants, worms, bees and snails on their adventure. What other insects might you meet in your garden?

