



# Bees are Fantastic

## Yummy, yummy - Bees make honey

### What Do Honey Bees Look Like?



Queen Bee



Worker Bee



Drone

### Bee Homes

The Queen Bee, Worker Bees and Drones live in a colony (group). The colony lives in a hive (the name of their home). Inside the hive are 'frames' with wax in them. The bees 'work' the wax and this is where they store their honey.



## Life Cycle of A Bee

Bees are insects and have four stages to their life cycle: egg - larva - pupa - adult

It takes 21 days for the worker bee to emerge.

**Day 1:** the queen lays a single egg in each cell of the comb.

**Day 4:** the egg hatches into a larva which is a legless grub and looks like a tiny white sausage!

The larva is fed a mixture of pollen and nectar called 'bee bread'.

**Day 9:** the cell is capped with wax and the larva transforms into the pupa.

**Day 21:** the new adult worker bee emerges.



## Busy As A Bee

Has someone told you that you are as busy as a bee? Then you must have been very busy indeed. Worker bees are very busy insects.

**First 3 days:** The worker bee cleans and polishes the cells ready for the Queen Bee to lay her eggs in them.

**Next 5 days:** The worker bee works as a nurse making 'bee bread' which she feeds to the larvae.

**Next 6 days:** The worker bee produces flakes of wax on the underside of her abdomen which she uses to build new comb.

**Three weeks old:** Some worker bees guard the hive. Bees from other colonies may try to enter the hive to steal honey but the guard bees recognize their different smell and chase them away. The worker bees are also ready to start foraging nectar and pollen for food. After about three weeks of foraging the worker bee is worn out and dies.



## Beekeepers

These are people who keep and look after bees. They make sure that their bees are well and healthy and have enough food to keep them alive during the winter. At the end of the summer the beekeeper will collect honey from the hive and put it into jars to sell.



## Why Do We Need Bees?

Bees are small insects but are very, very important. They pollinate our plants and trees. If bees didn't carry the pollen from one plant to another on their hairy bodies, our plants and trees would not be able to produce fruit and seeds. Without bees only a few plants would grow and we would not have enough food to keep everyone in the world alive!

Bees also make honey that we eat and to use in medicine, and make wax that we use to make candles, beauty products and furniture polish.

## How Can You Help Bees?

Plant bee friendly plants - bees like many varieties of flowers as well as flowering fruits and vegetables.

Make a bee nest and place it carefully in your garden. This should attract bumble bees or solitary bees.

## REMEMBER! Be Kind To Bees!

Lampeter & District Beekeepers' Association  
lampeterbeekeepersassociation.co.uk

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