

Bee Quiz for pollinators assembly

1. Q. About how many species of bee do you think there are in the UK? About a) 10, b) 100 or c) 250?

A. The answer is c), there are more than 250 species of bee. Some are bumblebees, some are honey bees and some are solitary bees.

2. Q. In a foxglove, how do you think pollen and nectar are collected by bees? With a) Long tongues, b) Long legs or c) Long tails?

A. The answer is a), bees usually (but not always) collect pollen and nectar with their tongues. Long tongued bees can collect from deep flowers like foxgloves and short tongued bees like open flowers like daisies.

3. Q. When a honeybee finds nectar, how does she tell the other bees where it is? Does she a) Do a dance, b) Draw a map c) Sing a song?

A. The answer is a), a 'waggle' dance is something bees do to tell other bees where the nectar is. They waggle in the direction of the flowers.

4. Q. If you add up all the journeys made by the bees needed to produce one jar of honey, how much would it total? a)10 miles, b)1000 miles or c)40,000 miles?

A. The answer is c), 40,000 miles, that's nearly twice around the world!

5. Q. If we didn't have bees to pollinate food such as beans for us, what would happen? a) We would starve, b) Healthy food would be much more expensive or c) It would not affect us?

A. The answer is b), it would cost farmers around £1.8 billion a year to pollinate crops without bees and that would make it more expensive for us as well. Some people wouldn't be able to afford healthy food.

6. Q. How does a bumblebee pollinate a tomato flower? Does she a) Dip her legs into it, b) Stick her tongue into it or c) Buzz against it so the pollen falls onto her tummy?

A. The answer is c), bees 'buzz-pollinate' tomatoes with their tummies, but they stick their tongue in most flowers. Some bees dip their legs into flowers like thistles.

7. Q Which of these foods don't need bees for pollination? a) Beans, b) Sweetcorn or c) Watermelon?

A. The answer is b), sweetcorn is really a type of grass and it is pollinated by the wind. However, most fruit and vegetables are pollinated by bees and other insects. Bees still visit sweetcorn for nectar or pollen to eat.

8. Q. How do plants use berries to spread their seeds to new places? Do they a) Make them tasty so birds eat them, b) Shake the berries off or c) Wait for someone to pick them off and plant them?

A. The answer is a), the bird digests the flesh of the berry, but the seed is dropped out in its poo. The seed can grow into a new plant in a new place.

9. Q: When a bee pollinates a flower, which of these is NOT true? a) Some flowers grow into berries that birds eat, b) Some flowers grow into seeds that birds eat or c) Some flowers grow into caterpillars that birds eat?

A. The answer is c), no flower grows into a caterpillar. But caterpillars do eat a lot of bee-pollinated plants, and birds do eat caterpillars. Bees, plants, caterpillars and birds are all important parts of the food chain and they all need each other.

10. Q. Why are bigger fields with either lots of crops or lots of grazing animals not as good for bees? Is it because a) The bees can't find each other, b) There are fewer flowers and nesting sites for bees or c) The bees can't feed from crops?

A. The answer is b), wild flowers for food and hedges for nesting sites grow around the edges of fields, so there are less of them in large fields. The bees can feed from some crops like oilseed rape but they only flower for a few weeks and bees need food all year.

11. Q. Which of these do you think are bad for bees?
Pesticides, extreme weather, climate change, building on wildflower meadows or disease?

- You might need to check with the children what these things mean before they vote for the one they want:
- Pesticides are chemicals used to kill insects so they don't eat farmers crops.
- Extreme weather includes things like drought (very hot weather with no rain) and very windy conditions.

- In order to build on a wildflower meadow, the meadow must be removed.

A. The answer is all of them. Pesticides affect bees brains so they can't live normally, be active or remember where the good nectar is. Climate change causes extreme weather conditions like high winds and droughts, it can also cause the weather to be cooler or warmer than it would normally be at a certain time of year. Also wildflower meadows that bees like are often cleared and used to build on, so the bees cannot live or get their food there anymore. Bees need your help!