

Where do bumblebees live?

Bumblebee queens have two homes:

- In autumn and winter queen bumblebees sleep by themselves in small holes under the ground, in compost heaps or in flower pots. This is called **hibernation**.
- Then, from spring until the end of summer the queen lives in a nest with her daughters. Sometimes there can be up to 400 bumblebees living in the same nest!



A queen bumblebee preparing for hibernation.

So, where do the boy bumblebees live?

Boy bumblebees are born at the end of the summer.

They start their lives inside the nest with their mother and sisters but boy bumblebees are very lazy. They're not very good at helping to keep the nest tidy or at collecting food for the nest. So, once they have fully grown, they leave home and spend their nights sleeping on flowers.

You can help bumblebees to nest in your garden by planting lots of flowers.

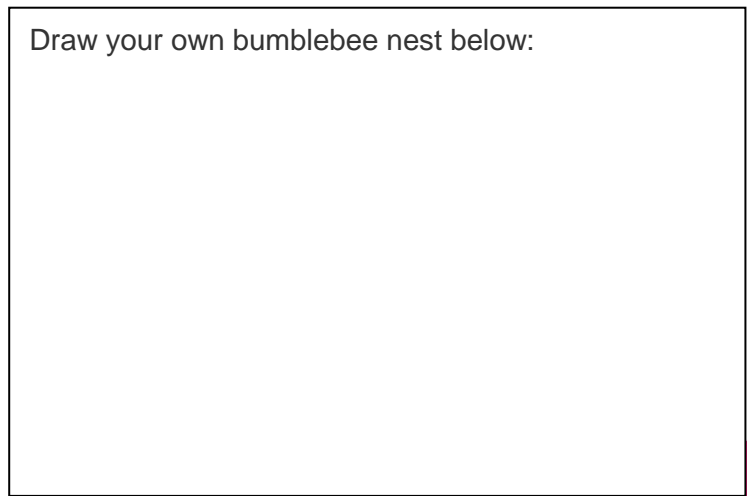
Especially flowers that bloom in spring.

Inside a bumblebee nest

It looks quite messy inside a bumblebee nest. There are lots of wax balls with baby bees growing inside; and little wax pots filled with nectar to feed the busy bees. Not to mention all the bumblebees crawling about inside.



Draw your own bumblebee nest below:



Stop things flying away with your own bumblebee paperweights

What you will need

- Poster paint – yellow and black for the stripes (optional - red or white for the tail)
- PVA glue and three mixing pots
- A large flat, round stone
- Paint brushes
- Googly eyes
- A pencil



Instructions

1. Use the pencil to draw lines on the stone to show where each of the stripes should be.
2. Mix a little PVA glue with each colour of paint (in separate pots).
3. Starting with the lightest colour first, use the paint brushes to paint the coloured stripes onto your stone. You might want to let each colour dry before painting the next to stop the colours running into each other.
4. Leave the stone to dry then use the black paint to give your bumblebee eyes or stick on the googly eyes.

Note: the PVA glue is added to make the stone water-resistant and shiny. You could use varnish to do this instead after you have painted the stone. Varnish has a very strong smell though so you would need to ask an adult to help you.

Wordsearch

The words in the list are hidden in the grid. Can you find them all?

b	w	i	n	t	e	r	b	e	i
w	o	h	a	v	y	m	u	m	h
g	v	i	u	q	k	s	m	a	n
s	y	b	t	u	d	u	b	l	r
p	d	e	u	e	n	m	l	e	l
r	j	r	m	e	e	m	e	w	q
i	v	n	n	n	s	e	b	f	a
n	v	a	j	t	t	r	e	h	w
g	a	t	f	l	o	w	e	r	s
v	f	e	g	a	s	j	y	b	z

- Bumblebee
- Hibernator
- Nest
- Male
- Queen
- Winter
- Summer
- Autumn
- Spring
- Flowers



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