



Bee Identification

(Suggested Ages: 8+)

Gather

- Paper and pencil for notetaking
- Camera for pictures (optional)



Let's Explore!

1. To find bees and other insect life, go outside and look for flowers. Flower gardens, flowering trees, or flowering bushes are all good places to look. Do you see any bees? Write down or draw what you see.
2. When you see something that *could* be a bee, observe if it is "furry" or not. Hornets, wasps, and yellow jackets have smooth bodies.
3. Where are the bees going? Can you spot their hive? Is there more than one bee? Make sure you give all insects plenty of space and observe with your eyes only!

How Does it Work?

Most bees like to visit flowers to get pollen. The pollen is the part of the flower that looks dusty and is used in the process of making seeds. You'll often find this yellow dust covering your car windows in the spring and fall. The "furry" bodies of bees, as well as any other pollinator insects, get covered in pollen as they visit each flower. Some types of plants can't reproduce without pollinator helping them out! Pollen is also a great protein source for many types of bees; just like eggs, hamburgers, and milk are great protein sources for people! Some bees also like to sip the sugary nectar that flowers make - specifically, honey bees use nectar to make delicious honey!

Take it Further!

Observe and draw not only bees, but any kind of insect that you find while exploring outside! You can then search a field guide from the library or the following databases for more information:

<https://kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/bee>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/za/discover/animals/insects/honey-bees/>

<https://www.insectidentification.org/>