

The Amazing World of Honey Bees

A short guide for curious beginners

Honey bees are small insects with a **huge** impact on our food and our environment. They live together in a colony, where every bee has a job to do. As bees travel from flower to flower, they carry pollen and help many crops to grow. **Without bees, our plates would look very different!** You can learn more from the [British Beekeepers Association](#).

Life in the Hive

A colony works like a small town. Its members share the work in different ways:

- **Queen:** the only bee that lays eggs.
- **Workers:** female bees that collect food and look after the hive.
- **Drones:** male bees whose main job is to mate with a queen.



Figure 1: A honeycomb is made of thousands of tiny hexagons.

How Bees Share Directions

When a worker finds a good patch of flowers, she returns to the hive and performs a waggle dance¹. The angle and length of the dance tell the other bees which way to fly and how far to go.

"A single worker bee makes only a tiny amount of honey in her whole life."

From Flower to Honey

1. A worker collects nectar from flowers.
2. She carries it back to the hive in her honey stomach.
3. House bees pass the nectar along and fan it with their wings.
4. The nectar thickens into honey and is sealed in the comb.

Table 1: Bee roles at a glance

Type of bee	Main job	Number in a summer colony
Queen	Lays the eggs	1
Worker	Gathers nectar, builds comb, cares for young	20,000 - 60,000
Drone	Mates with a queen	A few hundred to a few thousand
<i>Figures are approximate and vary by season and colony.</i>		

¹Karl von Frisch decoded the waggle dance and shared the 1973 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

Your Activity Checklist

Recreate the document on page 1 in Word for the web. Tick off each feature as you use it.

1. Type the title and subtitle, centre them and change the font size and colour.
2. Type the main paragraph and justify it. Make one word bold, one underlined and one sentence highlighted.
3. Apply Heading 1 and Heading 2 styles to the section titles.
4. Create the bulleted list and the numbered list.
5. Insert a picture, centre it, add alt text and type a caption under it.
6. Indent the quotation on both sides and add a left border.
7. Insert a table, shade the header row, and merge the cells in the last row.
8. Add a hyperlink to the British Beekeepers Association website.
9. Insert a footnote after the words “waggle dance”.
10. Add a header, and a footer with page numbers.
11. Insert a page break, then save and check your spelling with the Editor.