

Fact Sheet: About Bumblebees

At the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, we are passionate about saving bees. Here is why.

Save our bees

Bumblebees are among the most loved and familiar of garden insects. The sight and sound of them buzzing from flower to flower is an essential part of summertime, but sadly these fat, furry little creatures are struggling to survive.

At the time of writing, 24 bumblebee species are found in the UK, but unfortunately, in the last 80 years, two UK species have become extinct and others have declined sharply. In our modern world of paved gardens and intensive farming, our bumblebees find themselves hungry and homeless. The reason for this is simple and clearly visible: there are now far fewer flowers to provide bees with the pollen and nectar that they need to survive. But all is not lost – you can take action today to help save these hardworking pollinators. This fact sheet explains how.



What's so different about the bumblebee?

To most people, bees are instantly recognisable but there are distinct differences between the appearance and lives of bumblebees and honeybees. Bumblebees are larger and hairier than their cousins which makes them perfectly suited for colder climates. Bumblebee nests are small and they do not store large quantities of honey, so their extra furry coat allows them to venture out on cold days to collect pollen and nectar when honeybees stay inside.

Thursday 24th June 21: Fact sheet: About Bumblebees

Retrieval Questions

1. What is the name of the organisation that produced this fact sheet?
2. How many bumblebee species are there in the UK?
3. Find two words to describe what bumblebees look like.
4. How are bumblebee nests different to honeybee nests?
5. True or False: It's not too late to save the bees.
6. What do bees need to survive (tick 2)
 - ☐ Pollen
 - ☐ Honey
 - ☐ Nectar
 - ☐ Grass
 - ☐ Sunshine

Inference Questions

1. Look at the section headed: **Save our bees.**

Complete the table below with **one** piece of evidence from the leaflet to support each statement.

	Evidence
The Bumblebee Conservation Trust is worried about bees.	
The leaflet makes readers feel hopeful for bumblebees.	

2 marks

2. *In our modern world of paved gardens and intensive farming, our bumblebees find themselves hungry and homeless.*

This suggests that...

Tick **one**.

farming has helped bees.

☐

paved gardens are attractive.

☐

bees are good at finding their way.

☐

bees have only started struggling recently.

☐

1 mark

3. Look at the section headed: **What's so different about the bumblebee?**

The text refers to the bumblebees' *cousins*.

Who are their *cousins*?

1 mark

4. Does the author like bumblebees? How do you know?