



APRIL

 **Bumblebee Conservation Trust**

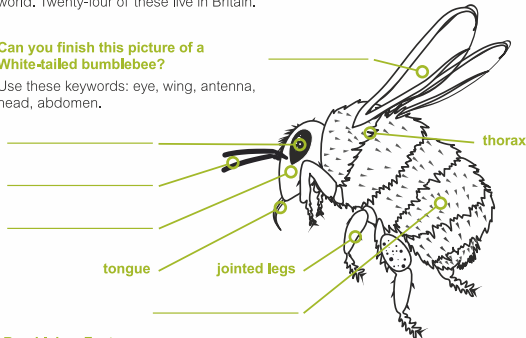
 **Busy bees Activities**

Bumblebees

Did You Know?
Bumblebees have **hairy legs** (to help collect food) and **smelly feet** (to let other bees know that they have visited a flower).

Bumblebees are obviously animals – but what type?
Scientists call them **Invertebrates** (animals without a backbone), and put them in a big group called the **Arthropods** (invertebrates with jointed legs). More specifically, they are **Insects** (arthropods with six legs). There are about 250 different types (**species**) of bumblebee in the world. Twenty-four of these live in Britain.

Can you finish this picture of a White-tailed bumblebee?
Use these keywords: eye, wing, antenna, head, abdomen.



tongue jointed legs thorax


Bumblebee Facts
To give them **energy** to move and grow, bumblebees drink sweet, sugary **nectar** from inside **flowers**, and eat the dust-like **pollen** from the male parts (**stamen**) of flowers.

Bumblebees live together in family groups (**colonies**) in a nest - often underground.


Each nest has a mother bee (**queen**) together with lots of her daughters (**worker bees**) and sons (**drones**).

Bumblebees have hair to keep them warm, but each winter the cold kills-off all of the drones and worker bees.

Queen bees sleep (**hibernate**) through the winter and wake in the spring, when they search-out a new nest to lay eggs and start a new colony.



Starting a new nest and colony in spring.



Download at https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/BBCT_Kids_Activity_7-10_General_v2.pdf

THINGS TO DO IN APRIL

- Look for swallows returning, young rabbits, wild garlic and bees
- Learn about migration
- Find out which wild plants can be used for food or as medicine
- Learn how to identify 3 different bees
- Find out why bees are an important part of the ecosystem

RESOURCES

1. Migratory bird wordsearch

https://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_migratory_bird_wordsearch.pdf

2. Bumblebee Conservation Trust lots of resources

<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/learning-zone/curriculum-resources-for-schools/>

3. Bumblebee facts

https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/BBCT_Kids_Activity_7-10_General_v2.pdf

4. Spring bees guide

[https://www.record-lrc.co.uk/Downloads/Spring%20bees%20\(4\)\[09042020\].pdf](https://www.record-lrc.co.uk/Downloads/Spring%20bees%20(4)[09042020].pdf)

5. How do bees see?

https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/assets/documents/BBCT_Kids_Activity_7-10_how_bees_see.pdf

6. Pollination

https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/02-InsectPollination.1_v2.pdf

7. How bees use static electricity to collect pollen

https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/03-StaticElectricity.1_v2.pdf

8. Do a bumblebee survey

Bumblebee survey

Here at the Trust, one of the most important parts of our work is to encourage people to count the different bumblebees



Name:	Location:
Date:	Weather:

	Species	Number seen	Colour of flowers / plant seen on
	Buff-tailed bumblebee		
	White-tailed bumblebee		
	Garden bumblebee		
	Red-tailed bumblebee		
	Early bumblebee		
	Common carder bee		
	Tree bumblebee		
	Unknown bumblebee		

