Buzzing Bees

Bees are one of the most useful yet undervalued species of insect alive today. There are over 20,000 different species living around the world and each species has different characteristics. Unfortunately, bee numbers are in decline.

Did you know?

All bees have six wings and five eyes.

Bees have two sets of wings which lock together to make a larger wing.

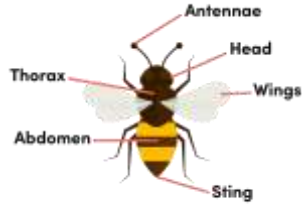
Bees' wings can flap more than two hundred times a second.

Honey Bees

One of the most familiar species is the honey bee. They produce honey which they use as food for the winter. Honey bees make more honey than they need so there is plenty left to be collected for us to eat too! To collect and transport pollen, honey bees have a special sack on their back legs.

Honey bees live in hives which are usually found in wooded areas and can be home to as many as 50,000 bees. These hives are made by the bees using wax honeycombs.

Honey bees are not aggressive creatures and are unlikely to sting unless they feel threatened or need to protect their hive. Once a honey bee stings, the stinger becomes lodged in the skin which means that after a few minutes, the bee will die.



There are three types of honey bee, each with a different role.

The Queen

The queen bee is the leader of the hive, meaning there is only one per hive. They are female bees which lay up to 2,500 eggs per day. When the queen dies, the worker bees choose one of the young larva (bee eggs) to become the next queen. They feed it a special mixture of nectar and pollen to help it develop and strengthen. A queen lives for around five years.

The Workers

Worker bees are always female. They forage for food to feed other bees and also protect and clean the hive. These are the bees most often seen on flowers. Worker bees have a lifespan of around six weeks and will produce roughly one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in this time. The worker bees perform a dance-like movement to show other bees where to find food.

The Drones

Drones are always male and their job is to mate with the queen. Several hundred drones can be found in each hive during the spring and summer months but in the winter, they are forced to leave. Drones have a shorter lifespan than both the queen and the workers and survive roughly four weeks.

Bumble bee

Tawny Mining Bee

Bumble Bees

Another common species of bee is the bumble bee. These bees also live in a nest ruled by a queen bee. Their hives are much smaller and can house up to four hundred bees.

Bumble bees are responsible for pollinating most wildflowers and leading global crops. This means they carry pollen between flowers to help new flowers grow. Bees use their remarkable sense of smell to help them to navigate.

In spring, the queen comes out of hibernation in search of nectar to replenish her energy and goes to find a place to lay her first eggs. Over the next two weeks, she sits on her larvae to keep them warm and only exits the nest to find food. The first group of eggs to hatch will be female worker bees. Once these have hatched, the queen does not leave the nest.

By late summer, the larvae grow into drones or new queen bees. Once these have matured, the drones leave the nest to find a mate and will never return. The new queens also leave to mate with bees from other nests but will return at night.

As winter approaches, the queen begins to fatten herself and the new queens. Once they are ready, they find a hole in the ground and begin their hibernation.

Bumble bees are placid creatures and do not sting unless they feel threatened. Male bees do not have a sting and are not capable of stinging. A bumble bee does not have a barbed sting and can sting more than once without dying.

Mining Bees

Mining bees are one of the largest groups of solitary bees. It is believed that there are more than 1,400 different species. These species differ in size and range from 1.5 mm to 2.5 cm.

Mining bees are ground nesting bees and do not live in hives. They sometimes live in aggregations but this is not always true. These groups may contain two bees but there can be up to 2,000. Mining bees prefer to nest in the earth with some species choosing sloping sites and others choosing flatter areas. You can spot mining bees' nests because you will see small mounds of worm-shaped earth next to small holes.

Adult mining bees emerge from their nest in spring when they are ready to mate. After, the female bee looks for a safe place to make her egg cells. In each cell, she lays one larva and gives it a mixture of pollen and nectar to eat. She then seals the nest and prepares the next cell.

Did you know?

Mining bees are also very calm bees and do not often sting. Only female mining bees have stingers but these are often too small to pierce human skin.

Mining bees have a lifespan of one to two months.

Leaf-Cutter Bees

There are seven species of leaf-cutter bees in the UK and over 1,500 species around the world. These are solitary bees that use plant leaves to create nests.

Female leaf-cutter bees have a large head and teeth to help them cut holes from leaves. They carry the pieces between their legs and use them to construct cells in their nests. Leaf-cutter bees nest in natural tunnels such as hollow plant stems. Once the cell is complete, the female fills it with nectar and pollen. She then lays her egg and caps the cell with a piece of leaf. She lays around twenty eggs at a time.

Leaf-cutter bees can determine the sex of their eggs and lay female larva at the back of the nests and males closer to the front. This is because males develop faster and leave the nest for mating first. An adult female lives for around two months and lays approximately forty eggs in this time.

Baby leaf-cutter bees remain in their cell through winter. In spring, they chew through the leaves to exit the nest and mate.

When landing on flowers, the leaf-cutter bees collect pollen on the underside of their abdomen, allowing it to fall off easily. It is rare for a leaf-cutter bee to sting. If they do, it is a much milder sting than from a honey bee.

Bees and Wasps

Bees and wasps are closely related, but they have significant differences.

Similarities

Bees and wasps are both able to sting, and usually do so to defend themselves or to protect their colonies.

Wasps also drink nectar to give them energy as bees do.

Some wasp species make a kind of honey to store in their nests to feed the larvae but not in the same volume as bees.

Differences

Wasps are much easier to provoke and are more likely to sting.

Wasps use their sting to capture and kill their prey.

When wasps are harmed or threatened, they produce a hormone to signal to their family that they are in danger.

Wasps are predatory and eat insects such as caterpillars and flies.

Bees survive by eating the pollen and nectar they collect.

Bees are excellent pollinators.

Wasps do not have the tools to collect the volume of pollen that bees do.

Bees usually have a hairy body and hairy legs.

Wasps have a smooth body and legs.

Vocabulary

1. What does the word 'species' mean?
2. Find and copy a phrase which means 'search for' in 'The Workers' section.
3. Read the paragraph beginning *'In spring...'*. What does the word 'replenish' mean?
4. What is an 'aggregation'?
5. What is an 'abdomen'?
6. Read the 'Bees and Wasps' section. Find and copy a word that can be replaced with the word 'important'.

Retrieve

1. How do honey bees collect pollen?
2. When do drone bees leave the hive?
3. How do bees find their way from one flower to another?
4. Where do mining bees nest?
5. When do leaf-cutter bees exit their nest?
6. Why are wasps more likely to sting than bees?

Summarise

1. Write three bullet points to summarise the information about honey bees.
2. Summarise the 'The Queen' section in two sentences.
3. Write one sentence to summarise what a queen bumble bee does during the spring.
4. In one sentence, summarise what happens once an adult mining bee emerges from its cells.
5. Write three bullet points to explain how a leaf-cutter bee makes its nest.
6. After reading the text, write a short blurb to explain what happens in the text.

Infer

1. Why do you think honey bees live in wooded areas?
2. Why do you think a queen bee has the longest lifespan?
3. Why does the queen bee not need to leave the nest once the first eggs have hatched?
4. Find two pieces of evidence to explain why humans do not often get stung by mining bees.
5. Find evidence to explain how leaf-cutter bees look different to the other bees.
6. Which words give you the impression that wasps are not friendly creatures?

Predict

1. What might happen to bee species in the future, given that lots of wooded areas are being destroyed?
2. 'The most important type of bee is the worker bee.' What do you think a bee-keeper might say in reply to this statement?
3. What do you think happens to the worker and drone bumble bees when the queens go into hibernation?
4. What might happen to a human if they disturbed a mining bee's nest?
5. What do you think happens to the pollen the leaf-cutter bees collect on their abdomen?
6. The author wants to add another section to the text. What could this be about?

Effect of language

1. What does the word 'undervalued' tell you about bees?
2. What other words could the author use instead of 'protecting'?
3. Why do you think the author has used the phrase 'will never return' to describe the male bumble bees?
4. What does the word 'solitary' tell us about the way mining bees live?
5. Why does the author use the word 'determine'? What does this tell us about leaf-cutter bees?
6. What does the word 'predatory' tell us about wasps?

Link ideas

1. Why has the author included a 'Did you know?' section?
2. Why has the author written page two in separate sections?
3. Who do you think the text has been written for? Why do you think this?
4. Why has the author included subheadings?
5. In what way does the image on page five support the information written in this section?
6. What images could be added to the 'Bees and Wasps' section to support this information?

Compare

1. What do you think about the way information is organised on page one? Is there a reason why this has been done?
2. How are queen and worker bees different? How are they the same?
3. In what ways are bumble bees and honey bees the same? In what ways are they different? Give one example for each.
4. What is the biggest difference between the way bumble bees and mining bees live? Explain your answer.
5. How is a leaf-cutter bee different to a honey bee? Explain your answer.
6. Why has the author organised the information in the 'Bees and Wasps' section into different sections?

Buzzing Bees

1. Read the paragraph beginning *'One of the most familiar species is the honey bee'*. Find one thing that honey bees do to help us?

1 mark

2. Read the 'Bees and Wasps' section of text. Explain why wasps are not as good at pollinating flowers as bees.

1 mark

3. *'A bumble bee does not have a barbed sting'.*
What does this tell us about the sting of a bumble bee?
Explain how you know.

1 mark

4. Bees are unnecessary creatures that are unhelpful.
Explain two ways that this statement is *false* using evidence from the text to support your answer.

3 marks

Buzzing Bees

1. Read the paragraph beginning *'One of the most familiar species is the honey bee'*. Find one thing that honey bees do to help us?

1 mark for reference to bees creating honey for us to eat.

1 mark

2. Read the 'Bees and Wasps' section of text. Explain why wasps are not as good at pollinating flowers as bees.

1 mark for reference to wasps not collecting as much pollen as bees do.

1 mark

3. *'A bumble bee does not have a barbed sting'*
What does this tell us about the sting of a bumble bee? Explain how you know.

1 mark for reference to bees with a barbed sting dying after they sting or bumble bees being able to sting multiple times without dying.

1 mark

4. Bees are unnecessary creatures that are unhelpful. Explain two ways that this statement is *false* using evidence from the text to support your answer.

3 marks for two acceptable points, at least one evidenced.

Acceptable point: they pollinate large numbers of flowers

Example evidence: 'Bumble bees are responsible for pollinating the majority of the world's wildflowers and leading global crops.'

Acceptable point: bees produce honey

Example evidence: 'Honey bees make more honey than they need so there is plenty left to be collected for us to eat'.

3 marks

1

Buzzing Bees

Bees are one of the most useful yet undervalued species of insect alive today. There are over 20,000 different species living around the world and each species has different characteristics. Unfortunately, bee numbers are in decline.

Did you know?

All bees have six wings and five eyes.

Bees have two sets of wings which lock together to make a larger wing.

Bees' wings can flap more than two hundred times a second.

Honey Bees

One of the most familiar species is the honey bee. They produce honey which they use as food for the winter. Honey bees make more honey than they need so there is plenty left to be collected for us to eat too! To collect and transport pollen, honey bees have a special sack on their back legs.

Honey bees live in hives which are usually found in wooded areas and can be home to as many as 50,000 bees. These hives are made by the bees using wax honeycombs.

Honey bees are not aggressive creatures and are unlikely to sting unless they feel threatened or need to protect their hive. Once a honey bee stings, the stinger becomes lodged in the skin which means that after a few minutes, the bee will die.

← QUESTION SELECTION BOX 1

Vocabulary (2a): What does the word 'species' mean?

Retrieve (2b): How do honey bees collect pollen?

Summarise (2c): Write three bullet points to summarise the information about honey bees.

Infer (2d): Why do you think honey bees live in wooded areas?

Predict (2e): What might happen to bee species in the future, given that lots of wooded areas are being destroyed?

Link ideas (2f): Why has the author included a 'Did you know?' section?

Effect of language (2g): What does the word 'undervalued' tell you about bees?

Compare (2h): What do you think about the way information is organised on page one? Is there a reason why this has been done?

Each question in this box is the first question in its respective section of the 'Questions by skill' sheet.

QUESTION SELECTION BOX 2 →

Vocabulary (2a): Find and copy a phrase which means 'search for' in 'The Workers' section.

Retrieve (2b): When do drone bees leave the hive?

Summarise (2c): Summarise the 'The Queen' section in two sentences.

Infer (2d): Why do you think a queen bee has the longest lifespan?

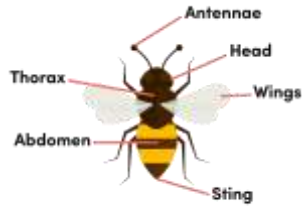
Predict (2e): 'The most important type of bee is the worker bee.' What do you think a bee-keeper might say in reply to this statement?

Link ideas (2f): Why has the author written page two in separate sections?

Effect of language (2g): What other words could the author use instead of 'protecting'?

Compare (2h): How are queen and worker bees different? How are they the same?

Each question in this box is the second question in its respective section of the 'Questions by skill' sheet.



There are three types of honey bee, each with a different role.

The Queen

The queen bee is the leader of the hive, meaning there is only one per hive. They are female bees which lay up to 2,500 eggs per day. When the queen dies, the worker bees choose one of the young larva (bee eggs) to become the next queen. They feed it a special mixture of nectar and pollen to help it develop and strengthen. A queen lives for around five years.

The Workers

Worker bees are always female. They forage for food to feed other bees and also protect and clean the hive. These are the bees most often seen on flowers. Worker bees have a lifespan of around six weeks and will produce roughly one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in this time. The worker bees perform a dance-like movement to show other bees where to find food.

The Drones

Drones are always male and their job is to mate with the queen. Several hundred drones can be found in each hive during the spring and summer months but in the winter, they are forced to leave. Drones have a shorter lifespan than both the queen and the workers and survive roughly four weeks.

3

Bumble bee

Tawny Mining Bee

Bumble Bees

Another common species of bee is the bumble bee. These bees also live in a nest ruled by a queen bee. Their hives are much smaller and can house up to four hundred bees.

Bumble bees are responsible for pollinating most wildflowers and leading global crops. This means they carry pollen between flowers to help new flowers grow. Bees use their remarkable sense of smell to help them to navigate.

In spring, the queen comes out of hibernation in search of nectar to replenish her energy and goes to find a place to lay her first eggs. Over the next two weeks, she sits on her larvae to keep them warm and only exits the nest to find food. The first group of eggs to hatch will be female worker bees. Once these have hatched, the queen does not leave the nest.

By late summer, the larvae grow into drones or new queen bees. Once these have matured, the drones leave the nest to find a mate and will never return. The new queens also leave to mate with bees from other nests but will return at night.

As winter approaches, the queen begins to fatten herself and the new queens. Once they are ready, they find a hole in the ground and begin their hibernation.

← QUESTION SELECTION BOX 3

Vocabulary (2a): Read the paragraph beginning *'In spring...'*. What does the word 'replenish' mean?

Retrieve (2b): How do bees find their way from one flower to another?

Summarise (2c): Write one sentence to summarise what a queen bumble bee does during the spring.

Infer (2d): Why does the queen bee not need to leave the nest once the first eggs have hatched?

Predict (2e): What do you think happens to the worker and drone bumble bees when the queens go into hibernation?

Link ideas (2f): Who do you think the text has been written for? Why do you think this?

Effect of language (2g): Why do you think the author has used the phrase 'will never return' to describe the male bumble bees?

Compare (2h): In what ways are bumble bees and honey bees the same? In what ways are they different? Give one example for each.

Each question in this box is the third question in its respective section of the 'Questions by skill' sheet.

QUESTION SELECTION BOX 4 →

Vocabulary (2a): What is an 'aggregation'?

Retrieve (2b): Where do mining bees nest?

Summarise (2c): In one sentence, summarise what happens once an adult mining bee emerges from its nest.

Infer (2d): Find two pieces of evidence to explain why humans do not often get stung by mining bees.

Predict (2e): What might happen to a human if they disturbed a mining bee's nest?

Link ideas (2f): Why has the author included subheadings?

Effect of language (2g): What does the word 'solitary' tell us about the way mining bees live?

Compare (2h): What is the biggest difference between the way bumble bees and mining bees live? Explain your answer.

Each question in this box is the fourth question in its respective section of the 'Questions by skill' sheet.

Bumble bees are placid creatures and do not sting unless they feel threatened. Male bees do not have a sting and are not capable of stinging. A bumble bee does not have a barbed sting and can sting more than once without dying.

Mining Bees

Mining bees are one of the largest groups of solitary bees. It is believed that there are more than 1,400 different species. These species differ in size and range from 1.5 mm to 2.5 cm.

Mining bees are ground nesting bees and do not live in hives. They sometimes live in aggregations but this is not always true. These groups may contain two bees but there can be up to 2,000. Mining bees prefer to nest in the earth with some species choosing sloping sites and others choosing flatter areas. You can spot mining bees' nests because you will see small mounds of worm-shaped earth next to small holes.

Adult mining bees emerge from their nest in spring when they are ready to mate. After, the female bee looks for a safe place to make her egg cells. In each cell, she lays one larva and gives it a mixture of pollen and nectar to eat. She then seals the nest and prepares the next cell.

Did you know?

Mining bees are also very calm bees and do not often sting. Only female mining bees have stingers but these are often too small to pierce human skin.

Mining bees have a lifespan of one to two months.

5

Leaf-Cutter Bees

There are seven species of leaf-cutter bees in the UK and over 1,500 species around the world. These are solitary bees that use plant leaves to create nests.

Female leaf-cutter bees have a large head and teeth to help them cut holes from leaves. They carry the pieces between their legs and use them to construct cells in their nests. Leaf-cutter bees nest in natural tunnels such as hollow plant stems. Once the cell is complete, the female fills it with nectar and pollen. She then lays her egg and caps the cell with a piece of leaf. She lays around twenty eggs at a time.

Leaf-cutter bees can determine the sex of their eggs and lay female larva at the back of the nests and males closer to the front. This is because males develop faster and leave the nest for mating first. An adult female lives for around two months and lays approximately forty eggs in this time.

Baby leaf-cutter bees remain in their cell through winter. In spring, they chew through the leaves to exit the nest and mate.

When landing on flowers, the leaf-cutter bees collect pollen on the underside of their abdomen, allowing it to fall off easily. It is rare for a leaf-cutter bee to sting. If they do, it is a much milder sting than from a honey bee.

← QUESTION SELECTION BOX 5

Vocabulary (2a): What is an 'abdomen'?

Retrieve (2b): When do leaf-cutter bees exit their nest?

Summarise (2c): Write three bullet points to explain how a leaf-cutter bee makes its cells.

Infer (2d): Find evidence to explain how leaf-cutter bees look different to the other bees.

Predict (2e): What do you think happens to the pollen the leaf-cutter bees collect on their abdomen?

Link ideas (2f): In what way does the image on page five support the information written in this section?

Effect of language (2g): Why does the author use the word 'determine'? What does this tell us about leaf-cutter bees?

Compare (2h): How is a leaf-cutter bee different to a honey bee? Explain your answer.

Each question in this box is the fifth question in its respective section of the 'Questions by skill' sheet.

QUESTION SELECTION BOX 6 →

Vocabulary (2a): Read the 'Bees and Wasps' section. Find and copy a word that can be replaced with the word 'important'.

Retrieve (2b): Why are wasps more likely to sting than bees?

Summarise (2c): After reading the text, write a short blurb to explain what happens in the text.

Infer (2d): Which words give you the impression that wasps are not friendly creatures?

Predict (2e): The author wants to add another section to the text. What could this be about?

Link ideas (2f): What images could be added to the 'Bees and Wasps' section to support this information?

Effect of language (2g): What does the word 'predatory' tell us about wasps?

Compare (2h): Why has the author organised the information in the 'Bees and Wasps' section into different sections?

Each question in this box is the sixth question in its respective section of the 'Questions by skill' sheet.

Bees and Wasps

Bees and wasps are closely related, but they have significant differences.

Similarities

Bees and wasps are both able to sting, and usually do so to defend themselves or to protect their colonies.

Wasps also drink nectar to give them energy as bees do.

Some wasp species make a kind of honey to store in their nests to feed the larvae but not in the same volume as bees.

Differences

Wasps are much easier to provoke and are more likely to sting.

Wasps use their sting to capture and kill their prey.

When wasps are harmed or threatened, they produce a hormone to signal to their family that they are in danger.

Wasps are predatory and eat insects such as caterpillars and flies.

Bees survive by eating the pollen and nectar they collect.

Bees are excellent pollinators.

Wasps do not have the tools to collect the volume of pollen that bees do.

Bees usually have a hairy body and hairy legs.

Wasps have a smooth body and legs.

Buzzing Bees - Answer Matrix

by skill →

by selection box ↓

Vocabulary (2a) 1 What does the word 'species' mean? A type or sort of animal.	**Vocabulary (2a) 2** Find and copy a phrase which means 'search for' in 'The Workers' section. Forage	**Vocabulary (2a) 3** Read the paragraph beginning '*In spring...*'. What does the word 'replenish' mean? Refill or fill up again	**Vocabulary (2a) 4** What is an 'aggregation'? The groups that mining bees live in.	**Vocabulary (2a) 5** What is an 'abdomen'? The belly	**Vocabulary (2a) 6** Read the 'Bees and Wasps' section. Find and copy a word that can be replaced with the word 'important'. Significant
Retrieve (2b) 1 How do honey bees collect pollen? They have sacks on their legs.	**Retrieve (2b) 2** When do drone bees leave the hive? They leave in the winter.	**Retrieve (2b) 3** How do bees find their way from one flower to another? They use their sense of smell to guide them.	**Retrieve (2b) 4** Where do mining bees nest? They nest in the earth on hillsides or flat land.	**Retrieve (2b) 5** When do leaf-cutter bees exit their nest? In spring	**Retrieve (2b) 6** Why are wasps more likely to sting than bees? They are more easily provoked.
Summarise (2c) 1 Write three bullet points to summarise the information about honey bees. Various answers, for example: They make honey; They live in hives; Their hives are made from beeswax.	**Summarise (2c) 2** Summarise the 'The Queen' section in two sentences. Various answers, for example: Queen bees are female bees in charge of the hive. They lay eggs to populate the next season's hive.	**Summarise (2c) 3** Write one sentence to summarise what a queen bumble bee does during the spring. The queen comes out of hibernation and lays her eggs.	**Summarise (2c) 4** In one sentence, summarise what happens once an adult mining bee emerges from its nest. The bees emerge and find a mate so that the female bees can lay their eggs.	**Summarise (2c) 5** Write three bullet points to explain how a leaf-cutter bee makes its cells. Female bees collect pieces of leaf; They make cells in their nest; They lay eggs and seal the cell with a leaf piece.	**Summarise (2c) 6** After reading the text, write a short blurb to explain what happens in the text. This text is about bee species. We can see their similarities and differences and why they are important.

Buzzing Bees - Answer Matrix

by skill →

by selection box ↓

Infer (2d) 1 Why do you think honey bees live in wooded areas? Various answers, for example: Their hives will be protected and sheltered in the trees.	**Infer (2d) 2** Why do you think a queen bee has the longest lifespan? They are protected because they do not need to leave the hive.	**Infer (2d) 3** Why does the queen bee not need to leave the nest once the first eggs have hatched? The worker bees have been born so they take over the collection of nectar and pollen to feed the hive.	**Infer (2d) 4** Find two pieces of evidence to explain why humans do not often get stung by mining bees. 'Mining bees are also very calm', 'do not often sting' or stingers are 'too small to pierce human skin'.	**Infer (2d) 5** Find evidence to explain how leaf-cutter bees look different to the other bees. 'Female leaf-cutter bees have teeth and a large head'.	**Infer (2d) 6** Which words give you the impression that wasps are not friendly creatures? 'Wasps are much easier to provoke'; 'Wasps use their sting to capture and kill their prey';' Wasps are predatory';
Predict (2e) 1 What might happen to bee species in the future, given that lots of wooded areas are being destroyed? They are likely to be left without a home and might die out.	**Predict (2e) 2** 'The most important type of bee is the worker bee.' What do you think a bee-keeper might say in reply to this? All types of bees are important. Without one type, the others wouldn't survive.	**Predict (2e) 3** What do you think happens to the worker and drone bumble bees when the queens go into hibernation? They will not survive and only the queen bee will be alive the following spring.	**Predict (2e) 4** What might happen to a human if they disturbed a mining bee's nest? Various answers, for example: Very little: the bees are calm, their stingers are small and only the females can sting.	**Predict (2e) 5** What do you think happens to the pollen the leaf-cutter bees collect on their abdomen? They feed it to their larvae and some will be transferred to plants to pollinate them.	**Predict (2e) 6** The author wants to add another section to the text. What could this be about? Various answers, for example: They could add a part about another type of bee.
Link ideas (2f) 1 Why has the author included a 'Did you know?' section? To highlight the common characteristics shared by all species of bee.	**Link ideas (2f) 2** Why has the author written page two in separate sections? To pinpoint the information and separate the different types of honey bee.	**Link ideas (2f) 3** Who do you think the text has been written for? Why do you think this? It was written for people wanting to know about bees as it gives facts about them.	**Link ideas (2f) 4** Why has the author included subheadings? To help you to identify where to find the information you need.	**Link ideas (2f) 5** In what way does the image on page five support the information written in this section? The image shows how the female bee carries the leaves.	**Link ideas (2f) 6** What images could be added to the 'Bees and Wasps' section to support this information? Images to show their different body shapes.

Buzzing Bees - Answer Matrix

by skill →

by selection box ↓

Effect of language (2g) 1 What does the word 'undervalued' tell you about bees? It tells us that they are not recognised for all of the work they do.	**Effect of language (2g) 2** What other words could the author use instead of 'protecting'? Various answers, for example: shielding, defending, guarding etc.	**Effect of language (2g) 3** Why do you think the author has used the phrase 'will never return' to describe the male bumble bees? To show that they will not survive for long before they die.	**Effect of language (2g) 4** What does the word 'solitary' tell us about the way mining bees live? It tells us that mining bees live more independent lives than other bees.	**Effect of language (2g) 5** Why does the author use the word 'determine'? What does this tell us about leaf-cutter bees? They are able to work out the gender of each egg, to lay them correctly.	**Effect of language (2g) 6** What does the word 'predatory' tell us about wasps? It tells us that they hunt other creatures for their food.
Compare (2h) 1 What do you think about the way information is organised on page one? Is there a reason why this has been done? The introduction explains what the text is about. The subheading groups the information.	**Compare (2h) 2** How are queen and worker bees different? How are they the same? They are both female bees. The queen does not leave the hive and lays eggs but worker bees bring the food and look after the hive.	**Compare (2h) 3** In what ways are bumble bees and honey bees the same? In what ways are they different? Give one example for each. Various answers: They both live in hives with queens, workers and drones. The bumble bees' family groups are smaller.	**Compare (2h) 4** What is the biggest difference between the way bumble bees and mining bees live? Explain your answer. Accept answers referring to bumble bees living in groups in a hive but mining bees living more self-contained lives in nests underground.	**Compare (2h) 5** How is a leaf-cutter bee different to a honey bee? Explain your answer. Honey bees use nectar and to create honey. Leaf-cutters use it for feeding the young. Leaf-cutter bees build nests in hollow tunnels. Honey bees live in hives built with wax.	**Compare (2h) 6** Why has the author organised the information in the 'Bees and Wasps' section into different sections? He has used sub headings to separate the facts into similar points to find the information more easily and more quickly.