



Social and Solitary Bees Activity



Activity: Sorting bees into two categories - 'social bee' and 'solitary bee'.

Purpose: To draw the child's attention to this important distinction between types of bees.

Recommended age: 4+

Instructions:

1. Print pages 1-4. Cut out the bee cards and sorting titles on page 1 and 2.
2. Read through the 'Social and Solitary Bees Fact Sheet' on page 3 to learn about what defines each type of bee and examples that will help the child to properly sort them.
3. Allow the child to sort the bee cards into the two categories by placing them under the correct title ('Social Bee' or 'Solitary Bee')
4. Offer the control sheet (page 4) so the child can check their work.

Print out the labels below for children to sort underneath.

Social Bees

Solitary Bees



Social and Solitary Bees



Large Carpenter Bee



Mason Bee



Honey Bee



Miner Bee



Bumble Bee



Leafcutter Bee



Social and Solitary Bees Fact Sheet



What are Social Bees?

- Social Bees live together in colonies, where all the bees in the community work together.
- Their hive is ruled by a queen.
- Social bees are more aggressive because they have a large nest to defend. They are much more likely to sting and swarm when their nest is disturbed. In comparison, solitary bees rarely sting.
- The most common social bees are honey bees and bumble bees.

What are Solitary Bees?

- Solitary bees do not live in colonies, they live alone and do not produce honey.
- The majority of the world's bees are solitary, including Leafcutter bees, Digger bees, Carpenter bees, Miner bees, and Mason bees.
- Solitary bees find or make holes to lay their eggs in. Some dig tunnels in the ground while others use old beetle tunnels in wood.
- Females do not defend their nest. They rarely sting and are not aggressive.



Social and Solitary Bees



Control Sheet

Social



Solitary

