



Types of Bees Language Cards



Activity: Learn about common bees - what they look like and their names.

Purpose: To develop the child's vocabulary and learn the names of different types of bees.

Recommended age: 5+

Instructions:

1. Sit with your child and introduce three or four types of bee, one-by-one. Look at the picture of the bee and read the attached facts.
2. Play a guessing game with the pictures of the bees you just looked at. Lay them out in front of the child and ask, "Can you show me the mason bee? Now show me the sweat bee." etc. Repeat this game a few times, rearranging the pictures each time.
3. If your child is having success with step #2, look at the bee pictures one at a time and ask the child to identify each one. If your child is reading, they can then match the reading labels to each bee.
4. Optional: Encourage your child to draw their own version of each bee! If they are writing, they can write the names of each one, too. These could be collected in a book or on a poster.

Types of Bees



bumble bee



large
carpenter bee



sweat bee



mason bee

Types of Bees



leafcutter bee



honey bee



squash bee



long-horned bee



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Fact Sheet

Bumble Bees

- Produce honey
- Social bees, they live in a hive with other bees
- Very good at pollinating plants - their wings beat 130 times or more per second and the beating, combined with their large bodies, vibrates flowers until they release pollen

Large Carpenter Bees

- Solitary bees that live alone
- Named for their carpenter-like abilities, they bore into wood to construct tunnels to lay their eggs.
- Because they live alone and don't have to defend a hive, they are not aggressive and rarely sting humans

Sweat Bees

- Small, solitary, non-aggressive bees
- Eat a diet of mainly pollen and nectar, however they also consume human sweat (this is where they get their name!)
- Love burrowing in bare soil in sunny locations to build their nests

Mason Bees

- They're like little masons - when they nest, the females find a tube, fill it with pollen, and then lay an egg inside. Then they seal it off with mud. The adult bees emerge from this nest in the spring.
- Mason bees are solitary bees, working alone
- Female mate with males, lays her eggs, and die about 10 weeks later



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Leafcutter Bees

- Important North American pollinators of native wildflowers, fruits, vegetables and other crops
- They they cut small semicircles off of leaves to construct nests and then lay their eggs in rotting wood
- Do not aggressively defend nesting areas. They will only sting if handled.

Honey Bees

- Live in colonies with one queen running the whole hive
- All honey bees are social and cooperative insects
- Members of the hive are divided into three types:
 - **Workers** - forage for food (pollen and nectar from flowers), build and protect the hive
 - **Queen** - lays the eggs
 - **Drone** - mate with the queen bee
- Live on stored honey and pollen all winter and cluster into a ball to conserve warmth

Squash Bees

- Females forage at the flowers of squashes, pumpkins and gourds
- Non-social - every female digs her own nest in the soil, often right in the ground below the plants they forage at
- Compared to other bees, squash bees are active early in the morning through midday



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Fact Sheet

Long-Horned Bees

- Named the long-horned bee because the males have very long antenna
- Females make nests in the ground, typically under shrubbery
- They dig out little compartments in the soil. Each compartment contains one egg on a ball of pollen, where the larvae develops until it emerges as an adult