

KIDS ACTIVITY SHEET



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
BOTANIC GARDENS

Alive with learning

Complete the activities and have a buzzing good time learning about native bees, why they are important and what you can do to help protect our native bee populations.



a resin bee
image sourced aussiebee.com.au



Neon Cuckoo Bee
image sourced aussiebee.com.au

1. Bees have 5 eyes and 2 pairs of **w** ____.
2. Bees collect nectar and **p** ____ from flowers.
3. Honeybees use **n** ____ from flowers to make honey.
4. Bees **p** ____ flowers.
5. Bees beat their wings 200 times per **s** ____.
6. The blue banded bee is a type of **n** ____ bee.
7. Most native bees live **a** ____ not in a hive.
8. Bees can tell us if our environment is **h** __ **l** __ **y**.



Bee facts

 Australian native bees can be black, yellow, red, metallic green or even black with blue polka dots! They can be fat and furry, or sleek and shiny.

 There are about 25,000 known species of bee in the world, and over 1,600 Australian native bee species.

 Most native bee species are solitary - they live alone, not together in hives.

 Bees nest in many different places including on the ground, in holes (such as in tree trunks or crevices in buildings) and on tussocks of grass.

 Most female bees have a sting but native bees are not aggressive and many cannot even get through your skin. However, as with all wildlife, it is better to look and not touch!

 Bees are important as they pollinate plants and can tell us about the health of the environment. When something is wrong with our bees, something is wrong in the environment!



blue banded bees © Remko Leijis



a green carpenter bee © Remko Leijis



Use the hints below to match the bee with the right picture

- Leafcutter bees cut very neat pieces of leaf to use in making their nests.
- Green carpenter bees like to make their home in pithy or old rotting wood.
- Teddy bear bees are covered in thick, red/brown fur and they like to make a nest in soil.
- Blue banded bees are buzz pollinators for plants like tomatoes.

a green carpenter bee



a teddy bear bee



a leafcutter bee



a blue banded bee



What else can you do?

Visit the bee hotel at the Australian National Botanic Gardens and, in summer, look out for native bees.

There are many ways you can support our native bees, such as building a bee hotel for your garden and growing a variety of plants (native and food plants) to promote year round flowering.

Find out more! For information on native bees and how to build your own bee hotel, download our fact sheets at bushblitz.org.au/resources. There is also lots of information on other websites including:

- actforbees.org/resources/australian-native-bees
- aussiebee.com.au
- australianmuseum.net.au/bees-suborder-apocrita
- beeaware.org.au/pollination/native-bees