

*'It is recognised that we will not save what
we do not love, and that we rarely love
what we cannot name.'*

Robert Macfarlane,
Author of The Lost Words

Festival of Stories

www.bit.ly/FestivalOfStories

Brought to you by



Cambridgeshire
County Council



And supported by:



Festival of Stories

Family Activity Book

Bringing the magic of stories about bees and
how we can give them a helping hand to life.

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Introduction

Welcome to Talking Together in Cambridgeshire's second Festival of Stories which will run from World Book Day on Thursday, 2 March 2023 through to World Storytelling Day on Monday, 20 March 2023.

Our Festival of Stories will shine a light on how stories can be used in fun and interactive ways to bring a sprinkle of magic to the everyday, and how they can be used to boost young children's communication, language, and literacy skills. Our festival will also highlight how stories can help young children feel safe and connected to others, and help them better understand the world we live in.

Throughout this festival we will share lots of magical stories about bees. We will also be running some fantastic sessions which will shine a light on how bees fly from flower to flower, and help plants grow. We will give bees a helping hand to encourage them to thrive by planting seeds and building bee hotels with families of children aged nought to five across Cambridgeshire.

PECT has helped us to create this activity book so you can use some of the free or low-cost activity ideas to help bees whether you are at home, in your group or setting.

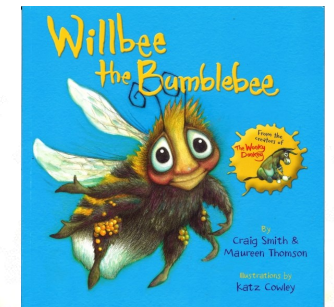
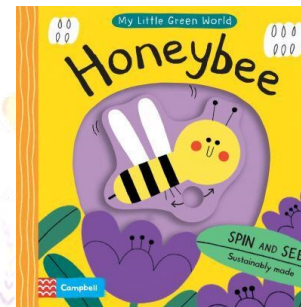
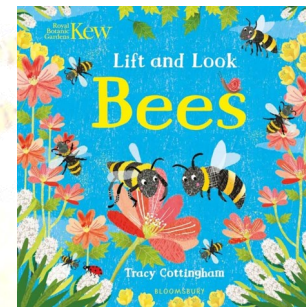
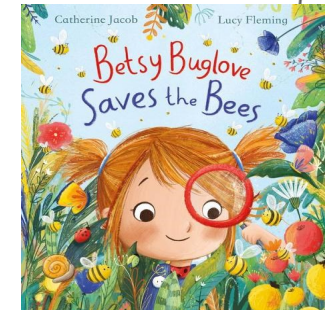
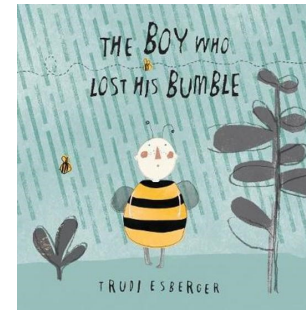
If you'd like to learn more about the Festival of Stories then please visit our website or scan the QR code

www.bit.ly/FestivalOfStories



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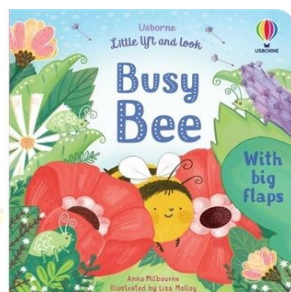
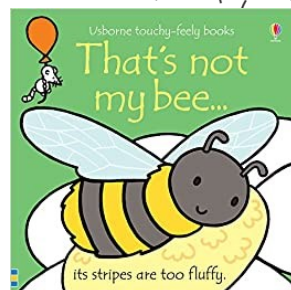
Other Bee Themed Books, You Might Like



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Our Festival of Stories - Bee Themed Books

That's Not My Bee
by Fiona Watt
Illustrated by Rachel Wells
0 - 1yrs



Lift And Look Busy Bee
by Anna Milbourne
1 - 2yrs



Bee And Me
By Alison Jay
2 - 3yrs



Bee My Friend
By Caroline Richards
Illustrated by Mike Byrne
3 - 4yrs



The Missing Bee
By The3Engineers
4 - 5yrs

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Other Useful Links -

50 Things To Do Before you're 5 - A selection of fun, free or low cost activities for parents and children from birth to five living in Cambridgeshire: [50 Things to Do Before You're Five in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough](#)

B Lines – Find out more about the network of pathways in the sky that act as service stations for bees: [B-Lines - Buglife](#)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Parks - Explore, enjoy and engage with your local parks and open spaces: [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Parks \(cambopenspace.co.uk\)](#)

Flower Finder – An online tool to help you identify which flowers are bee-friendly: <https://beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org/home.php>

Living Sport - Supporting positive physical activity experiences for children and young people: [Families - Living Sport](#)

Nature's School - Over 150 free activities to do in nature: [Nature's School - Downloadable Resources For Everyone - Projects - PECT](#)

Save Our Pollinators – Learn about how bees are under threat and what we can do to help: [Rewild Your World - Save Our Pollinators - YouTube](#)

Spot A Bee - Help to map bee populations in urban gardens: [Home | Spot-a-bee \(spotabee.buzz\)](#)

Start for Life Baby and Toddler Activities - Trusted NHS help and advice during pregnancy, birth and childhood: [Start for Life \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

The3Engineers – Fantastic bee-themed resources for school-aged children from the authors of The Missing Bees: [The3engineers](#)

The British Bee-keeping Association – Bee-themed resources for school-aged children: [Bees in the Curriculum | British Beekeepers Association \(bbka.org.uk\)](#)

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust – Information on the plight of bees and what we can do to help: [Activities ages 4-6 - Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#)

Tiny Happy People - Fun activities and things to do with your child to help their communication skills: [Activities for babies, toddlers and kids: Fun games to help development and bonding - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

Usborne Books – How children can help bees and other pollinators: [Can kids really help the bees and other pollinators | Usborne | Be Curious](#)

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Little ones are curious and love exploring!



Why not go outside and see if there are any bees flying around? You can help little ones learn more about their world by talking about what you can see and hear using simple language. For instance, "It's a bee. The bee is flying buzz, buzz, buzz. The bee is flying from flower to flower". Remember also to point to and look at the bee whilst you're talking as this will give your little one clues to help them understand the words you are using.

Children learn new words when they hear them repeated numerous times so talk about the bees and what they are doing whenever you see them. You can try this approach with babies and toddlers, as although they are still very young, they can learn to understand this buzzy thing is a bee and they will soon go on to try and say the word bee. For older children, you could talk about what the bee is doing in more detail, you'll find lots of ideas included in this pack.

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Please note: Children should be supervised whilst completing the activities to ensure their safety. Particularly when handling small, sharp and hot objects. Please also remember to wash hands after touching soil, seeds, mini beasts or egg cartons.



Bees can fly around 25km per hour and beat their wings 200 times per second which is what creates their buzzing sound.

Pretend to be a bee flapping your 'wings' (arms) really fast and make a buzzing sound as you move around. Gently encourage your little ones to do the same. If your little one enjoys being lifted in the air, try slowly 'flying' them around like a bee.

Alternatively, you could time your little ones and see how long they can run, walk, wheel, scoot or balance bike for.

The UK Chief Medical Officers' guidelines say that children under 1 should be physically active several times a day in a variety of ways, including at least 30 minutes of tummy time across the day (for those not yet mobile). Children 1 to 5 years old should be active for an average of at least 180 minutes a day.

Bees fly around in the sky sometimes several miles from the hive.

Blow some bubbles together. Babies might like to watch or reach out for bubbles whilst older children can try to follow or pop the bubbles or even blow the bubble themselves using bubble wands.

See who can pop the most bubbles!

Bee Active



Bees are important pollinators, taking pollen from plant to plant.

Explore an outside area or park together. Encourage your child to move from plant to plant like the bees. You can use real plants and flowers, chalk pictures on the ground or use hoops, toys or pictures.

You could read a book about bees together outside and then go exploring to see if you can find things from the book such as, flowers, trees, or even bees! You might even find that you have a local orchard, bee hive or bug hotel.

Bees do a 'waggle dance' which is a way of telling other bees where to find food. Other bees use a 'round dance' to show that food is nearby.

Put on some music and do a waggle dance with your child! Can you dance around in circles like bees?

Can you create dance moves and copy each other?

Can you jump, hop, skip, crawl, walk or run around to the music?

[Families | Living Sport Cambridgeshire & Peterborough](https://www.livingsport.co.uk/families) <https://www.livingsport.co.uk/families>

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(Not suitable for under 1's)

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For more information on how to make your storycube:

https://youtu.be/qB1NbDe_TdE

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Bee Themed Nature Scavenger Hunt

Scavenger Hunts and I Spy are really simple ways of getting children to explore their surroundings and discover things that they might not have seen, smelt, felt or heard before. You don't have to be anywhere specific, it can just be on a local walk, in the garden or at the park.

Why not talk together with your children about what you are looking for, what you find, what is happening, or what might happen next?

Something to keep 	Something Oval 	Something Yellow 
Something Stripy 	Something that makes you happy 	A Home 
Something with wings 	Something Black 	Something Hexagon 

The Bees in the Garden



The bees in the garden say buzz, buzz, buzz
 Buzz, buzz, buzz
 Buzz, buzz, buzz
 The bees in the garden say buzz, buzz, buzz
 All day long

The bees in the garden flap their wings, flap their wings, flap their wings
 The bees in the garden flap their wings,
 All day long

The bees in the garden sniff out food, sniff out food, sniff out food
 The bees in the garden sniff out food,
 All day long
 (Action – Slide your hands up your pretend antennae on your heads)

The bees in the garden drink nectar from the flowers, drink nectar from the flowers, drink nectar from the flowers
 The bees in the garden drink nectar from the flowers
 All day long
 (Action – Cup your hands & bend heads to drink from your hands)

The bees in the garden brush pollen onto flowers, brush pollen onto flowers, brush pollen onto flowers
 The bees in the garden brush pollen the flowers,
 All day long
 (Action – Pretend to brush dust off your bottom)

The bees in the garden say buzz, buzz, buzz
 Buzz, buzz, buzz
 Buzz, buzz, buzz
 The bees in the garden say buzz, buzz, buzz
 All day long

Use the same tune as The Wheels On The Bus;
[CBeebies: Something Special - Wheels on the Bus - Nursery Rhyme - Bing video](#)

Bertie Bumblebee



Fly along with me, I'm Bertie Bumblebee.
And we'll have so much fun, I'm your garden pal you see
With my colours black and yellow, I'm a bright and happy fellow.
Bertie Bumblebee.

Fly along with me, I am Bertie Bumblebee.
And we'll have so much fun, I'm your garden pal you see
I'm in your garden friend you know, please take extra care of me.
Collecting pollen from your flowers, you can watch me work for hours
Bertie bumblebee

Fly along with me, I'm Bertie Bumblebee.
There are exciting things to see, will you fly along with me?
There's a smile upon my face as I travel to each place
Bertie Bumblebee

Fly along with me, I'm Bertie Bumblebee.
There is so much to explore in your gardens that's for sure
I'm your fuzzy, buzzy friend, my adventures have no end
Bertie Bumblebee

Fly along with me, I'm Bertie Bumblebee.
And we'll have so much fun, I'm your garden pal you see
With my colours black and yellow, I'm a bright and happy fellow.
Bertie Bumblebee.

Link for the tune:

[Bertie Bumblebee](#) | [Sing A Long](#) | [Bee Friends](#) | [Nursery Rhyme](#) | [Kid-dieOK - Bing video](#)

Yellow & Black Nature I Spy

Daffodil



Dandelion



Sunflower



Blackbird



Red Admiral
Butterfly



Magpie



Duckling



Blue Tit



Bee



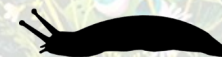
Spider


















Ant



Slug



Bee I Spy

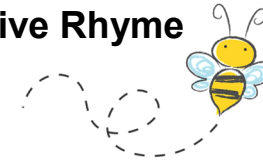
White Tailed	Early	Garden	Bumblebee
			
Blackberry	Great Yellow	Tree	Bumblebee
			
Common	Brown Banded	Moss	Carder Bee
			
Field	Forest	Southern	Cuckoo Bee
			
Worker	Drone	Queen	Honey Bee
			

PECT Nature's School -

www.pect.org.uk/projects/natures-school/

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Here Is The Beehive Rhyme



Here is the beehive
But where are all the bees
Hiding away where nobody sees
Here they come flying out of their hive
One, two, three, four, five (2 x verse)

Buzz down high
Buzz down low
Buzzing fast
Buzzing slow
Buzz to the left
Buzz to the right
Buzz all day but sleep all night

Link for the tune:

[Here Is The Beehive | Super Simple Songs - YouTube](#)

Sleeping Bees Rhyme

See the little bees sleeping till it's nearly noon
Shall we try and wake them with a merry tune?
Oh how still, are they ill, wake up soon
Buzz little bees, buzz, buzz, buzz
Buzz little bees, buzz, buzz, buzz
Buzz little bees, buzz, buzz, buzz
Buzz, buzz, buzz and stop





Use the same tune as Sleeping Bunnies;

[CBeebies: Something Special - Sleeping Bunnies - Nursery Rhyme - Bing video](#)

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Simple Ways To Help Bees Thrive

There are some simple things that you can do to help bees:

 Spring Sow wildflower seeds in your garden or a large pot	 Summer Make bee-friendly seed-balls
 Autumn Build a bee-hotel or create bee hibernation spots	 Winter Work out how bee-friendly your garden is

[Homepage - Bee The Change | Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#)

Bee Senses Hunt

Smell	Feel	Hear	Look
			
Sweet	Prickly	Loud	High
Strong	Soft	Quiet	Under
Delicate	Fuzzy	Buzzing	Behind
Delicious	Sticky	Chirping	On Top

Pollination Station

You will need:

- 1 Cup of Water
- ¼ Cup of Granulated Sugar
- Spoon
- Old Sponge
- Old Plate or Tray
- Pebbles or Stones

Make Your Nectar:

- * Gradually add the sugar to the water
- * Keep mixing thoroughly until all the sugar has dissolved

Make Your Station:

- * Arrange your pebbles/stones onto your plate/tray
 - * Soak your sponge in the nectar
 - * Place on top the pebbles/stones
 - * Add some rainwater - not tap water
- (Bees need water and forage for it in ponds and other places)
- * Place on a window sill or in your garden and watch to see what visits your pollination station

PECT Nature's School -

[Nature's School - Downloadable Resources For Everyone - Projects - PECT](#)



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1. All plants start life as **seeds**.
2. We plant them in soil, give them water and sun and watch them grow.

When the plant flowers the yellow centre of a flower contains a sweet liquid called **nectar**.

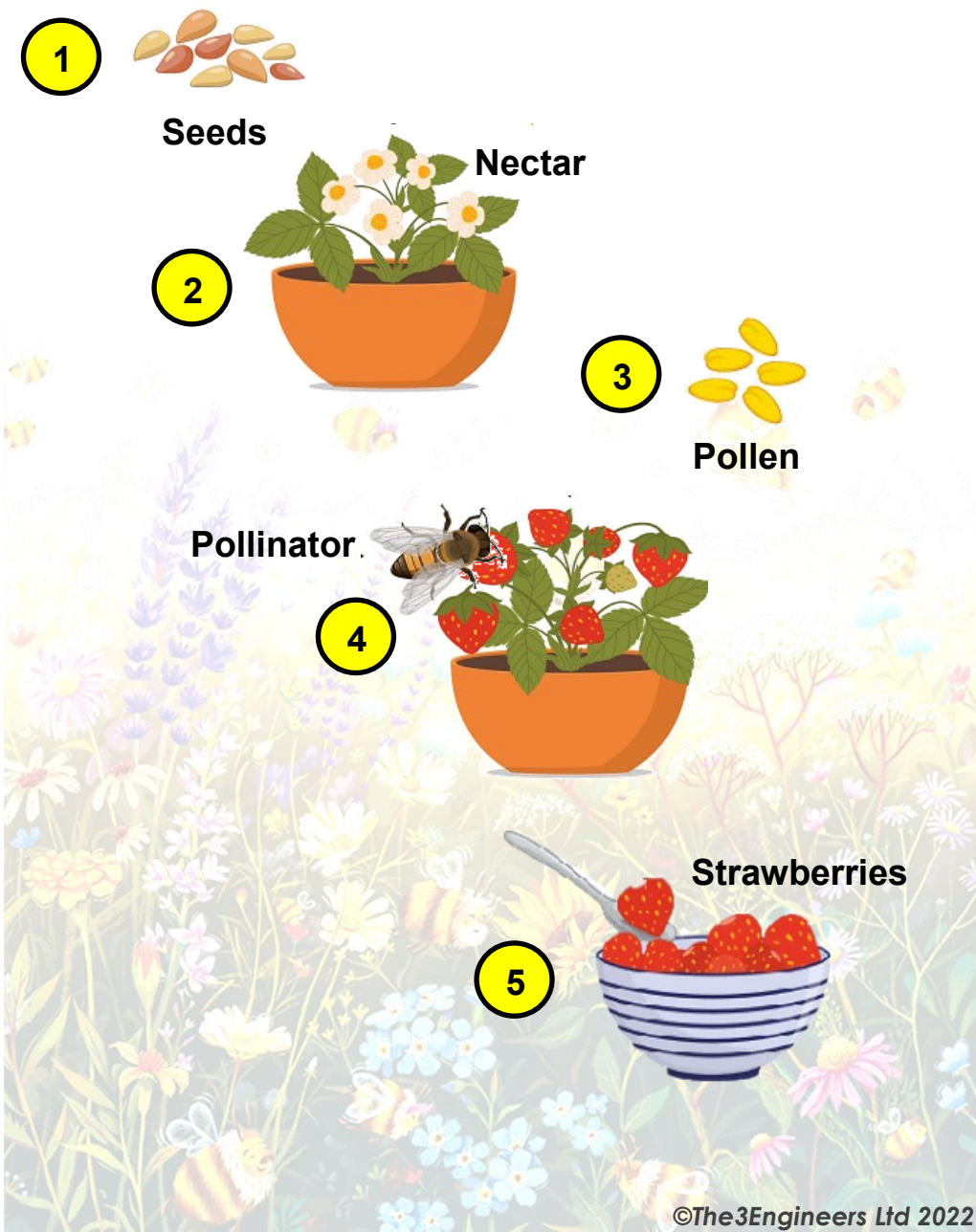
The **nectar** attracts bees to flower as a source of food and energy.

3. When a bee visits the flower they pick up the dust-like powder called **pollen** and carry it to other plants and flowers. This helps to make new seeds and grow new plants.
4. This is why bees and other insects are known as **pollinators**.
5. Bees help to make delicious food grow for us to eat! Why not try planting some **strawberries** at home?

RHS School Gardening;
[home / RHS Campaign for School Gardening](#)

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How Do Bees Make Our Food?



Wildflower Seed Bombs



You will need:

- Flour (can be out of date)
- Wildflower Seeds
- Water
- Soil or Peat Free Compost
- Small Cup & Bowl or Tray

Make Your Seed Bombs:

- * Using a small cup measure out 1 cup flour and 3 cups of soil onto your tray or into a bowl
- * Add a teaspoon of wildflower seeds (add more if you wish)
- * Mix together using your fingers
- * Measure out a cup of water and add gradually (you may not need all of it so add it a little at a time)
- * When it has started to stick together roll into small balls (about the size of a golf ball) and leave to dry
- * Once dry place them outside on top of your planting area (this should be clear soil e.g. free of grass)
- * When it rains it will wash the seeds into the ground and they will self plant

PECT Nature's School -

[Nature's School - Downloadable Resources For Everyone - Projects - PECT](#)



Bee Hotel

You will need:

- Clean Tin Can
- String
- Paper and/or Bamboo
- Sellotape
- Scissors
- Secateurs
- Paint or Pens (if required)

Make Your Hotel:

- * If you wish use waterproof paint or pens to decorate the outside of your tin
- * Using old paper roll into tight tubes and tape together
- * Cut to the length of your tin
- * Or you could use bamboo sticks cut to the length of your tin using secateurs (parent supervision required)
- * Tightly pack your paper tubes and/or bamboo into the tin can
- * Tie some string around the middle of the tin to hang in the garden

PECT Nature's School;
[Nature's School - Downloadable Resources For Everyone - Projects - PECT](#)



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Facts About Bees



Alder Cone Bees

You will need:

- Alder Cones
- Yellow Wool
- Paper
- Scissors

Make Your Bee:

- * Dry out your alder cones overnight on some tissue paper or kitchen roll (be aware that tiny mini beasts make these their home)
- * Cut out some wings from your paper, leave a piece of paper between them so they are joined
- * Place them on top of an alder cone
- * Wrap your yellow wool around the cone making sure you include the wings and leaving a short end
- * When you have added enough, tie to the short end and add a loop to hang

Top Tip:

Make your wings more delicate by using tissue or tissue paper

www.mudandbloom.com/blog/alder-cone-bee-mobile



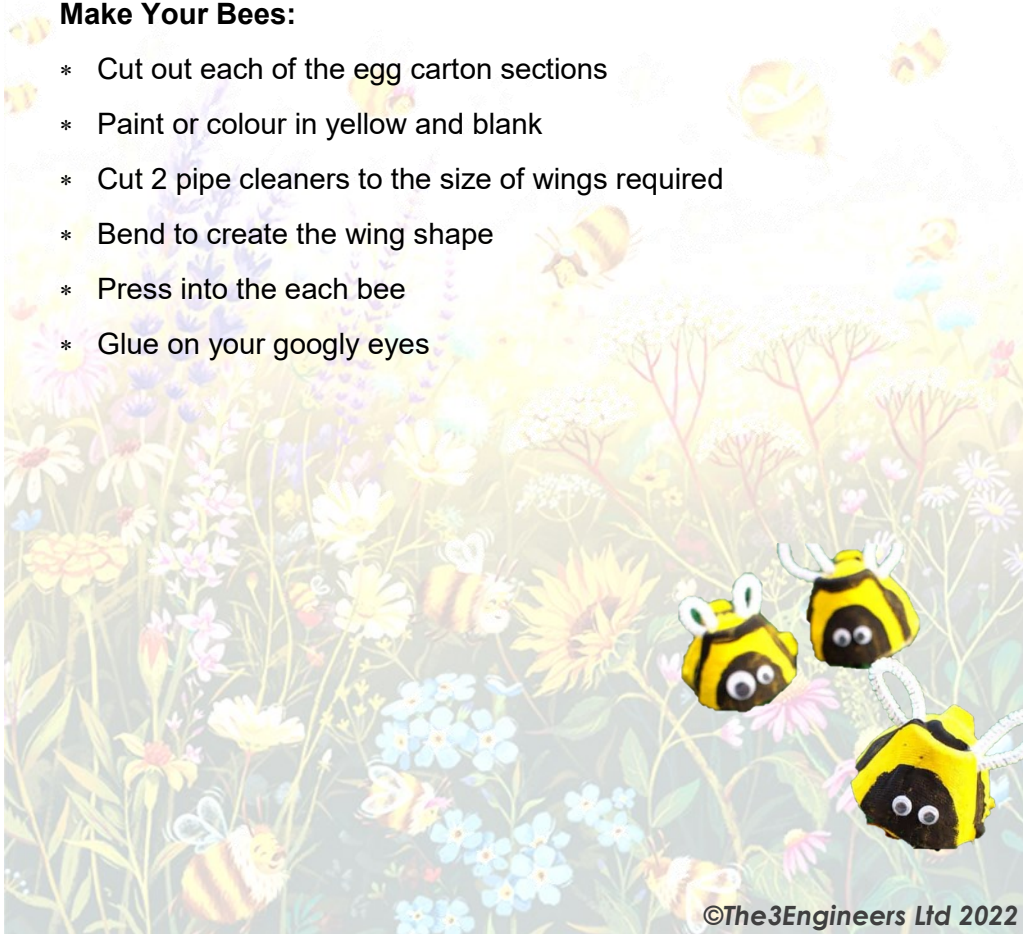
Egg Carton Bees

You will need:

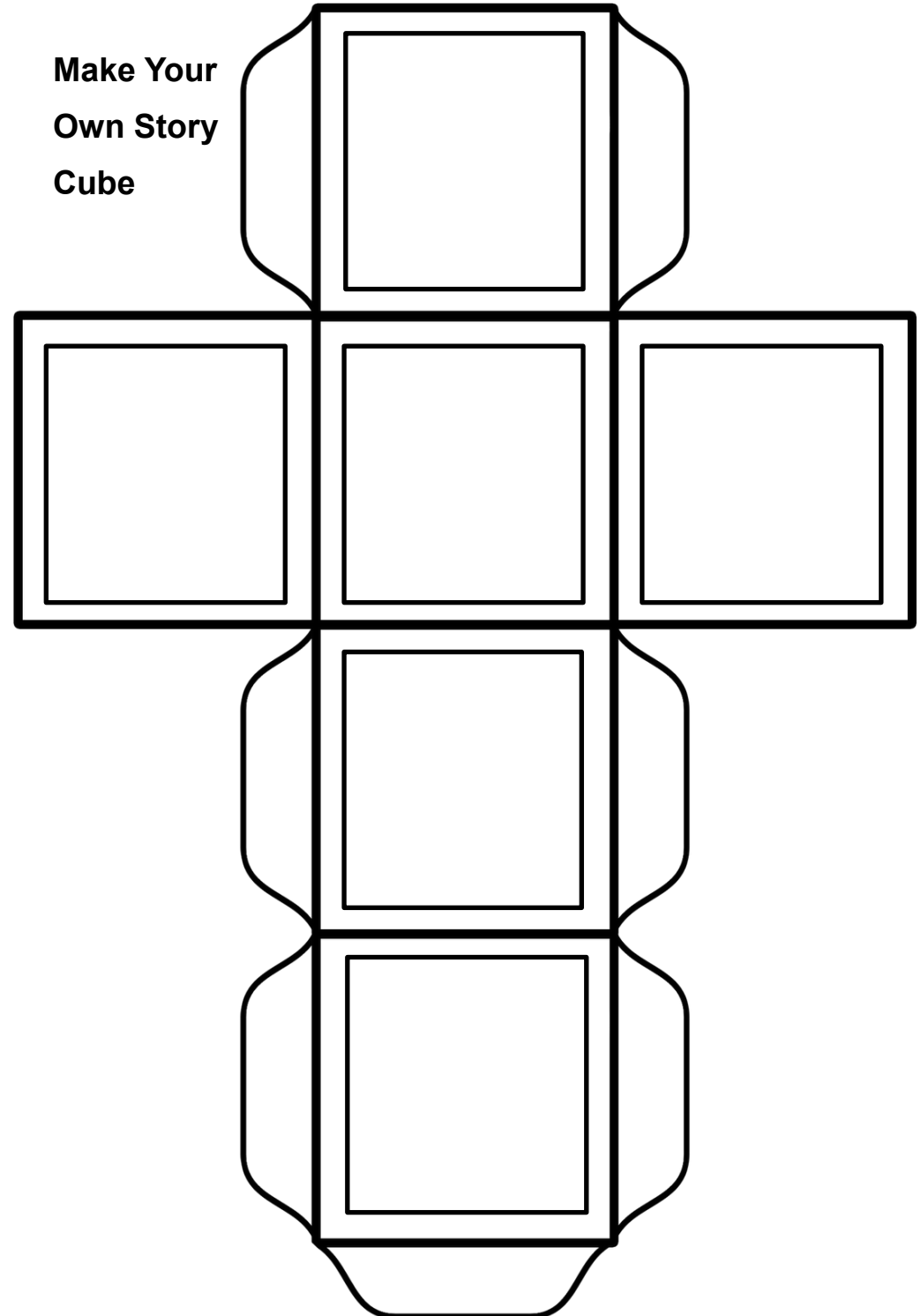
- Egg Carton
- Scissors
- Paint or Colouring Crayons
- White Pipe Cleaners
- Googly Eyes
- Glue

Make Your Bees:

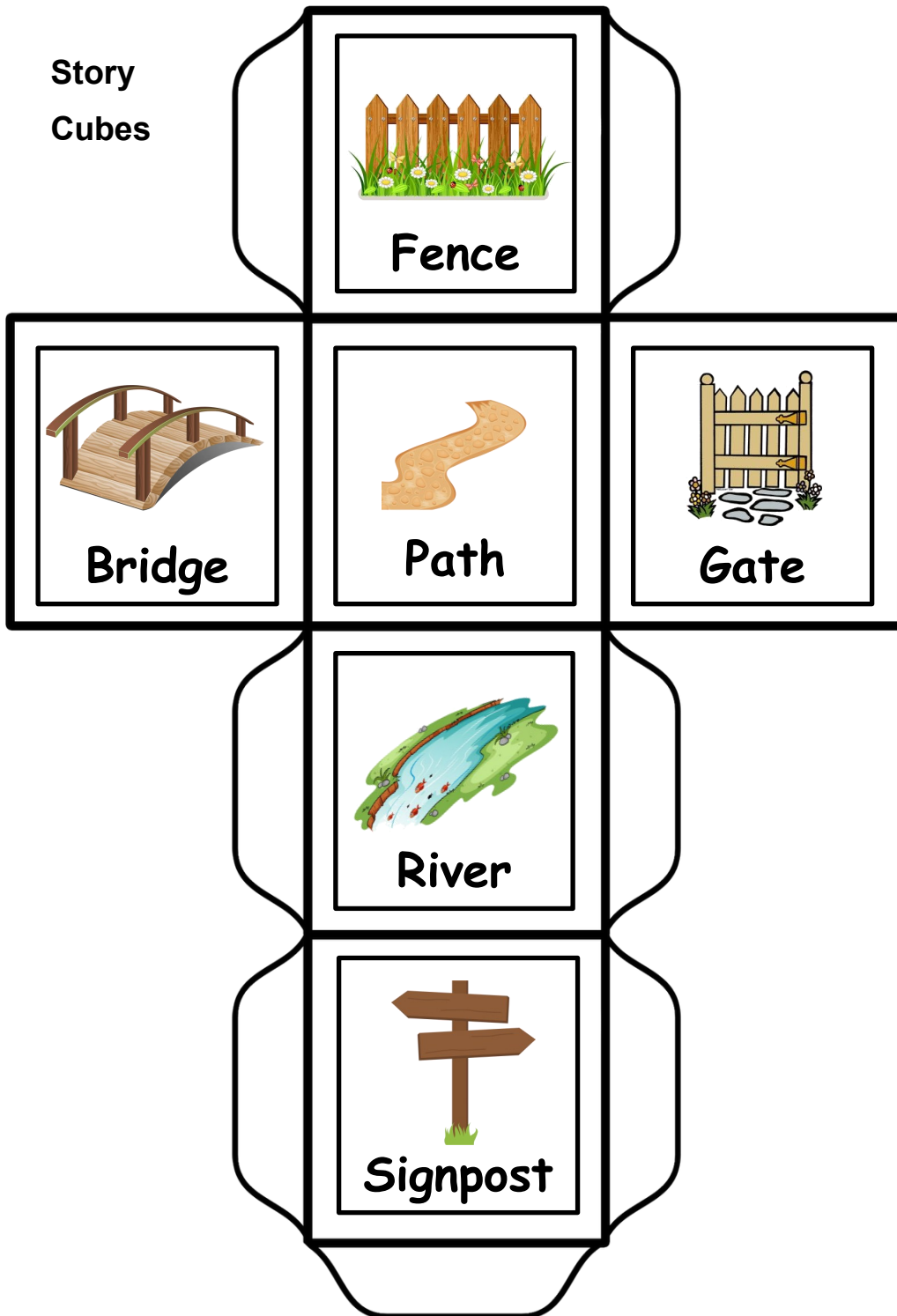
- * Cut out each of the egg carton sections
- * Paint or colour in yellow and black
- * Cut 2 pipe cleaners to the size of wings required
- * Bend to create the wing shape
- * Press into the each bee
- * Glue on your googly eyes



Make Your Own Story Cube



Story Cubes



Wool Wrapped Bees

You will need:

- Cardboard
- Yellow & Black Wool
- Newspaper/Magazine Paper
- Scissors
- Sellotape & Glue
- Googly Eyes



Make Your Bee:

- * Cut an egg shape from the cardboard
- * Cut some notches around the edge
- * Tape the yellow wool to one side
- * Wrap around the cardboard using the notches to help keep it in place
- * When finished cut the wool and tape to the same side as before
- * Repeat with the black wool - you will not need as much as the yellow
- * Cut wing shapes from old magazines or newspapers
- * Tape or glue in place
- * Glue on your googly eyes

[Yarn Wrapped Bee Craft | Housing a Forest](#)



Honey Biscuits

Ingredients needed:

- 175g Plain Flour
- 75g Granulated White Sugar
- 1tsp Bicarbonate of Soda
- 100g Butter/Spread
- 1tbsp Clear Honey
- 1tbsp Milk

Equipment needed:

- Pan
- Mixing Bowls
- Spoons
- Fork
- Sieve
- Rolling Pin
- Baking Tray
- Wire Rack

Make Your Biscuits:

- 1.Preheat your oven to 180'C/Gas mark 5
- 2.In a pan, warm the honey and milk together, allow to cool
- 3.Add the bicarbonate of soda and beat with fork until frothy
- 4.Cream the butter and sugar
- 5.Add frothy mixture
- 6.Then add the sieved flour and mix together
- 7.Roll into small equal balls (about 3cm diameter)
- 8.Place on greased baking tray and press slightly with a fork
- 9.Bake in the oven, on the middle shelf for about 10 minutes, until golden
- 10.Leave to cool on a wire rack

[Honey Biscuits recipe - Netmums](#)

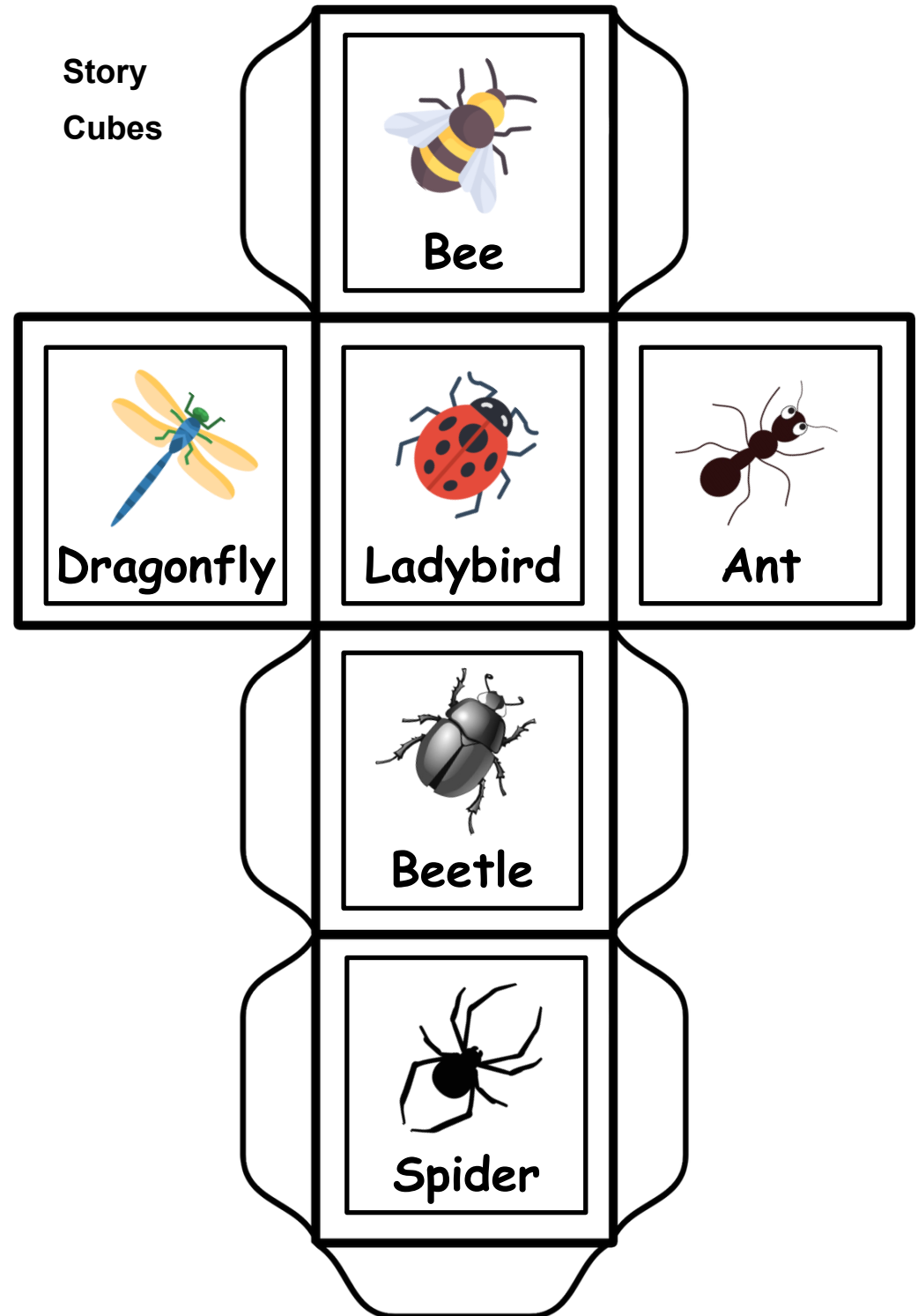
Please remember that honey is not suitable for babies under 12 months



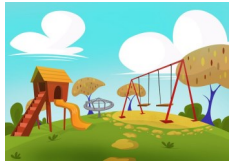
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Story Cubes



Story Cubes



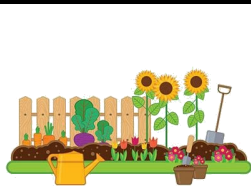
Park



City



Beach



Garden



Mountain



Farm

Honey Buns

Ingredients needed:

250g Plain Flour
150ml Warm Water
1tsp Caster Sugar
1tsp Salt
1tsp Yeast
Honey

Equipment needed:

Wooden Spoon
Mixing Bowl
Teaspoon
Pastry Brush
Baking Tray
Greaseproof

Make Your Buns:

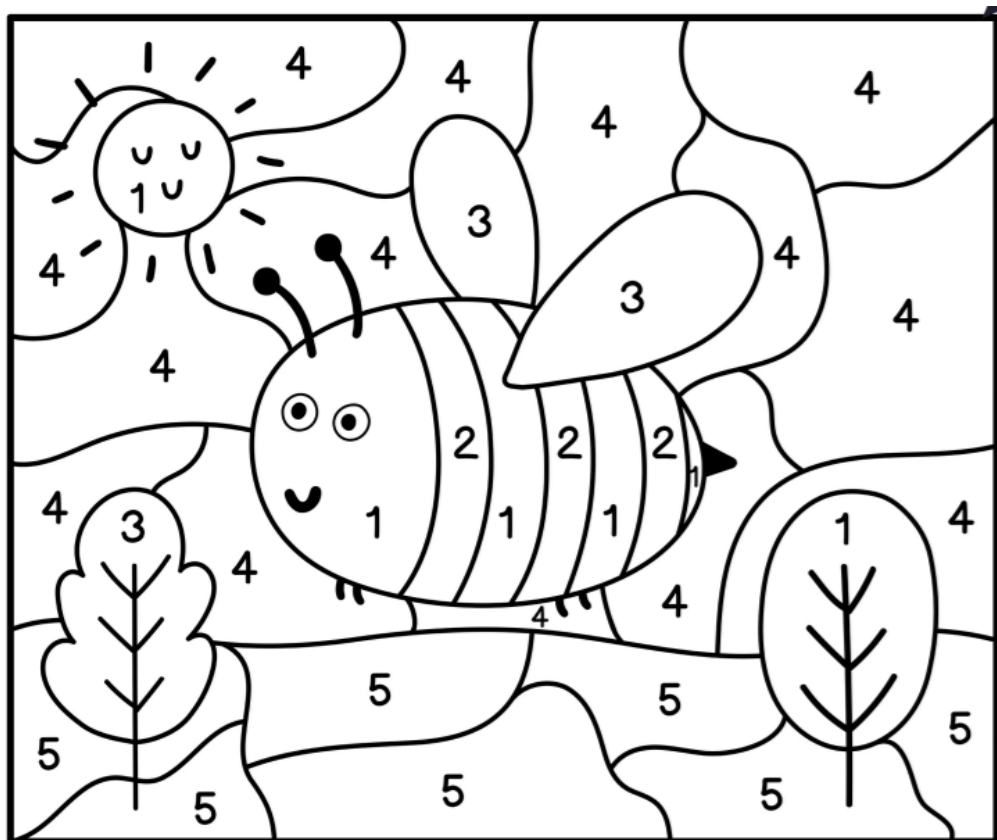
1. Preheat your oven to 190°C/Gas mark 5
2. Mix the flour, salt, sugar and yeast together
3. Add the warm water
4. Mix into a firm dough
5. Knead the dough with your hands for 10 minutes
6. Divide the dough into four equal balls
7. Roll each ball into a "sausage" shape
8. Curl round into a ring
9. Place each ring on the greaseproof paper
10. Using a pastry brush, lightly brush the rings all over with honey
11. Leave for 45mins, to allow the rings to rise or until they have doubled in size
12. Bake for around 12 minutes, until starting to brown

[Spot A Bee FINAL WEB.pdf \(spotabee.buzz\)](#)

Please remember that honey is not suitable for babies under 12 months



Bee Colour By Numbers



Scholastic Resources -
[Scholastic – Home of children's books - Scholastic UK - Children's Books, Book Clubs, Book Fairs and Teacher Resources](http://www.scholastic.co.uk)

Bee Bookmarks

