

Name _____



What Does the Insect Bee Look Like?

Bees are small, fascinating insects that are easy to recognize because of their unique features. They are usually between 0.1 and 1 inch long, depending on the type of bee. For example, a tiny sweat bee might be as small as a grain of rice, while a bumblebee is much bigger and can be about the size of your thumb. Bees are lightweight, with most weighing less than a paperclip!

One of the first things people notice about bees is their color. Most bees are black and yellow, but some can be orange, blue, or even metallic green! Many bees have stripes on their bodies. These stripes help them blend into their environment or warn predators to stay away. Stripes are a bee's version of a "caution sign."

Bees have six legs and two pairs of wings that allow them to fly quickly from flower to flower. Their wings are thin and see-through, often shimmering in the sunlight. A bee's body is divided into three parts: the head, thorax, and abdomen. The head is where you'll find their antennae, which help them smell and feel. Bees also have large, black compound eyes made up of many tiny lenses. This gives them excellent vision to find flowers.

One of the most unique parts of a bee's body is its stinger. Only female bees have stingers, which they use to protect themselves or their hive. Another special feature is the pollen basket. Worker bees have little spaces on their back legs called "pollen baskets." These help them carry pollen from flowers back to their hive.

Bees are covered in tiny hairs that make their bodies look fuzzy. These hairs help them collect pollen. When a bee lands on a flower, pollen sticks to the hairs, which the bee brushes into its pollen baskets. This fuzziness also keeps bees warm when the weather is cooler.

From their fuzzy bodies and colorful stripes to their amazing eyes and wings, bees are built to be hard workers. Every part of their body helps them survive and thrive in their environment.