

Name _____



How Bumblebees Buzz and Move

Bumblebees are amazing flyers with unique ways of moving that help them survive in their environment. These small but powerful insects rely on their wings and legs to get around.

Bumblebees move mostly by flying. They have two pairs of wings that beat up to 200 times per second! This rapid wing movement creates the familiar buzzing sound we hear when a bumblebee is nearby. Bumblebees can fly quickly for their size, reaching speeds of up to 15 miles per hour. Their wings are specially designed to carry heavy loads of nectar and pollen back to their nest, even in windy conditions.

One of the most fascinating things about bumblebee flight is how they hover. Bumblebees can stay in one spot in the air while collecting nectar from flowers. This hovering ability is made possible by the unique way they move their wings, which creates lift and keeps them steady. Hovering helps them reach deep inside flowers that other insects might not be able to access.

In addition to flying, bumblebees use their legs for climbing and collecting food. Their legs have tiny hairs that help them grip surfaces and hold onto flowers. These hairs also help them collect and carry pollen. Bumblebees are very efficient movers, whether they are flying, climbing, or walking.

Even though bumblebees are excellent at flying, they face challenges in the wild. Strong winds or heavy rain can make it harder for them to fly. However, their strong muscles and lightweight bodies allow them to keep moving even in difficult weather.

Bumblebees' movement plays an important role in their survival and the ecosystem. By flying from flower to flower, they help pollinate plants, allowing fruits, vegetables, and flowers to grow. Their ability to fly efficiently and carry heavy loads makes them one of nature's most hardworking insects.