

Name \_\_\_\_\_



### What Does a Bumblebee Look Like?

Bumblebees are small, round insects that are easy to recognize. Their bodies are covered in soft, fuzzy hair, which helps them collect pollen from flowers. Most bumblebees have a mix of black and yellow stripes on their bodies, but some may also have orange or white markings. These bright colors not only make bumblebees look beautiful but also warn predators to stay away!

A bumblebee's size can vary depending on its species. Most bumblebees are about the size of a large jellybean, ranging from half an inch to one inch long. Despite their small size, bumblebees are surprisingly strong and can carry heavy loads of pollen and nectar back to their nests. Bumblebees don't weigh much—only about as much as a small paperclip! Their light bodies and powerful wings make them excellent flyers.

The bumblebee's body is divided into three main parts: the head, thorax, and abdomen. The head has large compound eyes that help them see in many directions. Bumblebees also have a long tongue, called a proboscis, which they use to drink nectar from flowers. Their thorax, or middle section, is where their wings and legs are attached. Bumblebees have six legs and two pairs of wings. The abdomen is the last part of the bumblebee's body and is where they store food and carry their stinger.

One unique feature of bumblebees is their stripes. These stripes are not just for looks—they serve as a warning to animals that the bumblebee can sting if threatened. However, bumblebees are not aggressive and usually only sting when they feel in danger. Another interesting fact about bumblebees is that their wings flap so quickly that they create a buzzing sound. This buzzing helps shake pollen loose from flowers, making the bumblebee even better at pollinating plants.

Now that you know what a bumblebee looks like, you can see why these tiny insects are so special. Their unique features and bright colors make them one of nature's most fascinating creatures.