

Bees and Wasps

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PM

Bees and Wasps

Level 22

Running Words 830 **Text Type** Information Report

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Science (Biological Sciences); Humanities (Geography)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the information report in their own words. Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

- 1 What are the three main body parts of bees and wasps?
- 2 What are the four stages of the life cycle of bees and wasps?
- 3 What does the queen honeybee do in a hive?

Inferential

- 4 In what ways does the wasp larva change in its pupa?
- 5 Why are holes or mud good places for bees and wasps to make a nest?
- 6 Which honeybees are the smallest in a hive?
- 7 Why do you think there are more worker bees than drones?
- 8 Why does pollen shoot out of a flower when a blue-banded bee shakes its wing muscles?

Applied Knowledge

- 9 Why are wasps good for the environment?
- 10 How can we help to protect the habitats of bees and wasps?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 22	Information Report	<i>Butterflies and Moths</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Flies and Mosquitoes</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Bugs</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Grasshoppers and Crickets</i>
Level 22	Information Report	<i>Beetles</i>

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What Are Bees and Wasps?

Bees and wasps are flying insects that have four wings.

There are thousands of different kinds of bees and wasps throughout the world. Most of them can sting.

European wasp



honeybee



Some bees and wasps have brown or black bodies with yellow stripes.

Others have brightly coloured markings.



bumble bee



ruby-tailed wasp

Like all insects, bees and wasps have six legs and three main body parts: the head, the thorax and the abdomen.

The females usually have a stinger at the end of the abdomen.

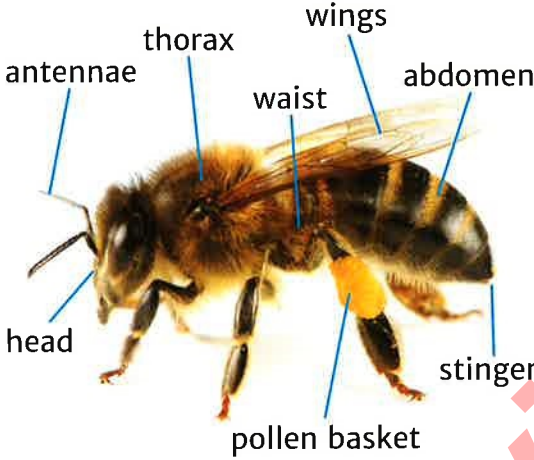
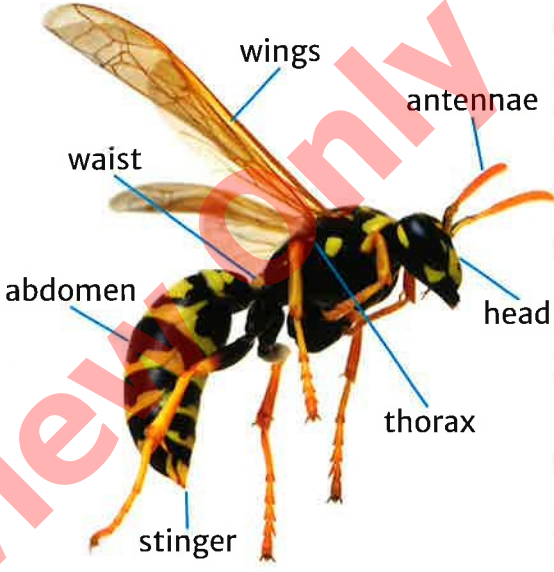
These insects have a narrow waist, which allows them to bend their bodies quickly to sting their enemies.



This wasp is bending at its waist to sting someone.

Bees and wasps have **antennae** (say: *an-ten-ee*) for smelling food. They have a tongue for drinking, and sharp jaws for biting, digging and grabbing.

Differences Between Bees and Wasps

Honeybees	Wasps
 <p>Diagram of a honeybee showing its body parts: antennae, thorax, wings, abdomen, waist, head, pollen basket, and stinger.</p>	 <p>Diagram of a wasp showing its body parts: wings, antennae, waist, abdomen, head, thorax, and stinger.</p>
short, sturdy, hairy body	long, thin, smooth body
short, hairy legs	thin, hairless legs
thick back legs with pollen baskets for carrying pollen	long, thin back legs
short, bent antennae	long antennae
Female bees can only sting once.	Most female wasps can sting many times.

The Life Cycle of Bees and Wasps

Bees and wasps have the same life cycle.

There are four **stages** in the cycle.

A female bee or wasp lays eggs in a nest.

Tiny grubs called larvae (say: *lar-vee*) hatch from the eggs.

They begin to eat and grow bigger.

When a larva has eaten enough food, it forms a hard case around its body called a pupa (say: *pyoo-pa*).

Inside the pupa, the larva's body changes.

A fully formed adult insect breaks out of the pupa.



This is a bee larva.

The Life Cycle of a Paper Wasp

