

# World Bee Day

## 20 May 2022



**“We have only one heart, and the same wretchedness which leads us to mistreat an animal will not be long in showing itself in our relationships with other people. Every act of cruelty towards any creature is contrary to human dignity.” Pope Francis Laudato Si’ n 92**

Our bee population is declining for many reasons: the use of insecticides in our homes, the clearing of native vegetation which removes habitat and food for bees, the use of agricultural chemicals, their susceptibility to pests and diseases, and climate change. Unfortunately, these factors work in combination and affect bees and many other animals that are also pollinators.



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## Why should we care about bees?

Bees pollinate the plants we use for food (fruit and vegetables), [two thirds](#) of Australia’s agricultural production benefits from bee pollination. The estimated value of honey bee pollinator services in 2019 was [\\$6 billion](#)!

They maintain the health of ecosystems by pollinating plants which in turn provide food and shelter for our native animals. They allow plants to reproduce. If all the bees died there would be a ‘ripple effect’ impact on habitats and food webs, possibly causing extinctions.



### Did you know?

We have 2000 - 3000 species of native bees in Australia, many are yet to be described. Native bees are very reluctant to sting – do you know what they [look like?](#) Source: ‘Bees of Australia’ James Dorey 2018

## Cheap and simple actions we can take to help our bees such as:

- Plant native plants that provide pollen and nectar for our native bees.
- Create ‘Bee Hotels’ anywhere!
- Try not to use insecticides and pesticides in your home and garden.
- Respect the dignity of all living creatures, try not to squash bees!
- Spread the word about the importance of bees.
- Provide water in your garden for bees and other living creatures.



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### Suggested Activities and Resources

- Plant native trees and shrubs in your home, parish and school garden. Which [species](#) should I plant?
- Bees are colorblind and seem to prefer blue, purple, white and yellow flowers. Research what kinds of plants would attract both honey bees and native bees to your school garden.
- Create 'Bee corridors' (that will probably benefit other creatures too) by joining up your green corridors with nearby schools, parishes and families.
- Be inspired by this '[Gardening Australia' story](#) from April 2021
- Find out what a sugarbag bee is.
- Learn about Australia's '[native bees](#).'
- Find out how to build a [bee hotel](#) for our native bees.
- Learn about [honey bee communication](#) and the division of labour in their colonies. This can generate some interesting discussion.
- There are resources, events, units of work and more at '[Love Food? Love Bees!](#)' [Australian curriculum aligned units - Act for Bees](#)



### Primary

- Learn about the life cycle of bees [Free Printable: Life Cycle of a Honey Bee - Trillium Montessori](#)
- Read some [story books](#) about bees.
- Make bee-themed art and craft [activities](#).
- Dress up as bees and flowers, write a play to show the importance of bees, their pollination activities or how they communicate.
- A [unit of work](#) for grade 5/6 on bees. [Love Food? Love Bees! - Integrated Unit - Year 5 & 6 - Cool Australia](#)
- Conduct a spelling bee using 'bee' words.
- Learn about [pollinators and decomposers](#) (Y5/6).



### Secondary

- Inspire your students with this [story](#) about a 16-year-old boy who turned his passion for bees into a business.
- Students research amazing fun facts about bees and make up a quiz the whole class can use and learn from.
- Debate whether we should be conserving our bees or not. 'Bees are more harmful to humans than the plants they pollinate'.
- Create a piece of art to raise awareness about the importance of bees and display it in the school hall. Invite parents to come along and hear from students about the interpretation of their art and its key messages.
- How do bees help plants? [Unit of work](#)