

The Buzz About Bees



The Greatest Pollinators

Bees are part of the biodiversity on which we all depend for our survival. They provide high-quality food—honey, royal jelly and pollen—and other products such as beeswax, propolis and honey bee venom.

The landmark report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) notes, “Sacred passages about bees in all the world’s major religions highlight their significance to human societies over millennia.”

Beekeeping provides an important source of income for many rural livelihoods. According to IPBES, the western honey bee is the most widespread managed pollinator globally, and more than 80 million hives produce an estimated 1.6 million tons of honey annually.

And pollinators contribute directly to food security. According to bee experts at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, a third of the world’s food production depends on bees.

When animals and insects pick up the pollen of flowers and spread it, they allow plants, including many food crops, to reproduce. Birds, rodents, monkeys and even

people pollinate, but the most common pollinators are insects, and among them, bees.

Ten Fun Facts About Bees

1. The reason bees are so noisy is because they beat their wings 11,400 times in one minute!
2. Only female bees sting. Males don’t have stingers.
3. Honey bees communicate through dance moves.
4. A hive of bees will fly over 55,000 miles to make one pound of honey and can create 100 pounds of honey in a year.
5. Bees can sense the hormone a human gives off when they’re scared. If they feel their hive is threatened they’ll attack.
6. The honey bee is the only insect that makes food man can eat.
7. Each honey bee from the same hive has their own specific color identification.
8. The Ancient Egyptian King Pepy II came up with an insect repellent. He’d cover a slave in honey so bees would be attracted to the honey and not him.
9. Eating honey makes you smarter! It has an antioxidant improving brain functions.
10. Bees have five eyes!