

Comprehension Workbook 5

Bees in trouble

(Threatened species)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

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Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Caring for our environment

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

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Unit 5: Bees in trouble

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Bees in trouble

Bees give us delicious honey. They also carry pollen from plant to plant. This is what allows plants to reproduce – to make more plants. Bees have been dying at a fast rate. Scientists do not know exactly why this is happening, but they do know that if something is not done, the world may soon be running out of bees.

In Britain, three types of British bumblebee have already disappeared. The good news is that you can help the British bumblebee. You can make your garden a friendly place for bumblebees.



In March, when there are not many flowers, you can make food for the bees to drink. Mix $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup water. Fill clean bottle caps with this mixture. Place the caps around your garden or in nearby hedges and bushes.

In April and May, you can help bumblebees by planting flowers that bumblebees like, such as bluebells, rosemary, thyme, comfrey, geraniums, lavender, cornflower and honeysuckle. In June, when the flowers come up, help the bumblebees by not spraying chemicals on your flowers or plants. These chemicals may harm the bees.



In July and August, plant more plants, so the bees also have flowers through the summer and into the autumn. If you do not have a garden, you can plant the flowers in a window box.



In September and October, you can help the bumblebees by building them a winter house. Fill an old, clean can with bamboo pieces. Place this in your garden or hang it from a tree. Another type of simple bumblebee house can be made by drilling holes in a piece of wood. In the winter months, some bumblebees drink nectar from flowers like clematis and carnea. You can also help bumblebees by planting these plants.



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'reproduce'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'reproduce' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'reproduce'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'reproduce'.

e What do some plants need in order to 'reproduce'.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: delicious	tasty

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Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

There is nothing wrong with rewriting; even the best authors rewrite their work.

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Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



In June, when the flowers come up, help the bumblebees.

In September and October, you can help the bumblebees by building them a winter house.

In April and May, you can help bumblebees by planting flowers.

In March, when there are not many flowers, you can make food for the bees to drink.

In the winter months, some bumblebees drink nectar from flowers like clematis and carnea.

In July and August, plant more plants, so the bees also have flowers through the summer and into the autumn.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 What do bees carry from plant to plant?

2 What are three types of flowers that bumblebees like to visit?

3 What food do bees make?

4 What can you make to feed to bumblebees?

5 How many kinds of British bumblebees have disappeared?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 Why are bees important?

2 How can you make a bumblebee house out of wood?

3 What is happening to bee colonies?

4 How can you help bumblebees if you don't have a garden?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



1 Why should we help bumblebees?

2 Why do we need to make food for bumblebees in March?

3 How do you think making bumblebee houses for your garden helps bumblebees?

4 What is one thing that can harm bumblebees?

5 How do bees help people?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Bees and plants

Discuss what would happen to plants if all of the bees disappeared? Would we still have as many plants?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



Bee friendly garden

You have decided to make a garden that is friendly for bumblebees. Describe what things you would do to make your garden a friendly place for bumblebees.

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