

MAKE YOUR OWN BEE FRIENDLY AREA



As we found out in the book, it's not always easy for bees to find a place to set up home. You can help them out by creating your own bee-friendly area near your house, school, or other outside space (but always check with a grown-up first!).

If you wanted to, you could plant bee-friendly seeds just like Omar, Maisie and their friends did. You can often find special packets of bee-friendly seeds online or in supermarkets and garden centres.

The plants that bees like will vary from country to country, but in the UK they're especially partial to wildflowers like yarrow, knapweed, oxeye daisies and cowslips.

Find a safe, sheltered area to plant your seeds so that the bees don't get frightened away by people rushing past them all the time. It would be really if you could plant them somewhere that you could see easily from your window, so that you can enjoy watching your new neighbours buzzing around!

An even simpler idea is just to talk with your grown-up about whether there's a patch of your garden, school field or community space that you could leave alone to go wild again. We often think it looks messy to leave grass uncut, or leaves lying on the ground, or weeds growing tall, but bees love it and they'll soon move in!

MAKE A BEE ON A TREE

Bees visit lots of different places while they gather nectar, so here's an idea that'll give them something lovely to look at on their travels.

What you'll need:

- Some clay (natural clay if you can find it, but air-dry clay will work as well)
- If you can't find clay then mud will also work, but it might just be a little harder to get it to stick together. You can add a little bit of water to make it squidgier if you need to!
- Some little sticks, stones and other natural materials
- A tree trunk with enough space to display your artwork!

What to do:

- 1) Get a piece of clay about the size of an apple and roll it around in your hands until it's warm and easy to mould.
- 2) Shape the clay until it looks like a bee's body.
- 3) Press your clay shape onto a tree trunk and wiggle it round so that it feels secure and won't slip off.
- 4) Use your natural materials to add wings, legs and other features to the bee, then let the whole thing dry out.
- 5) If you can't find a tree, you could make your bee somewhere on the ground instead! Wherever you put it, we'd love for your grown-ups to share photos of your creations to @owletpress on social media!



FOREST SCHOOL LEARNING: KS1

Outside adventures linked to 'Omar, the Bees and me' for ages 5+



OMAR. THE BEES AND ME

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DO A WAGGLE DANCE

You can show you're a true friend of the bees by wiggling and jiggling just like they do!

When bees have found a good source of nectar (the delicious flower food they love) they fly quickly home to tell everyone else about it.

Once the bee has gathered its friends together, it will start wagging its body in the direction of the tasty treats it's discovered. The exact dance moves vary depending on how far away the food is and how much there is on offer, but it always involves shuffling, turning in circles and making figure of eight shapes as they strut their stuff. You can look online to find some videos of bees wagging away!

Why not hide some yummy snacks from your friends or family and then see if you can perform a waggle dance that leads them to the food?



BUILD A BEE HOTEL

We often think that all bees live in hives, but actually, many species prefer to make their homes somewhere else. They might burrow down into the ground, or dig out a little hole in a wall. However, it's getting harder and harder for bees to find safe homes, so we can help them out by building them a hotel where they can stay for a while.

There are lots of different ways to do this so feel free to get creative! You can use natural materials like wood, sticks and pine cones, or things that you might find in your recycling boxes like plastic bottles. Gather up your building materials and let's go!

What you'll need:

- A plastic bottle (2 litre size is ideal, but smaller is fine as well)
- Some scissors
- Lots of twigs of all different shapes and sizes (you'll need enough to fill your bottle)
- Other interesting bits and bobs like pine cones, dried leaves, moss or dried grass
- A long-ish piece of string (at least 1 metre)



What to do:

- 1) Cut the top off the plastic bottle (roughly the first quarter of the bottle, but it doesn't need to be exact).
- 2) Use the scissors to make a hole in the top of the bottle.
- 3) Tie a big knot in one end of your string, then poke the other end through the hole you've made from the inside of the bottle to the outside. The big knot should stop it going all the way through. You'll use this string to attach your bee hotel to a tree or fence.
- 4) Fill your bottle up with the twigs and other materials you've collected, packing them together as tightly as you can. Bees don't like settling down in open spaces and will feel much happier wiggling their way into a teeny, tiny space, so really squeeze everything in!
- 5) Find a safe place to hang your bee hotel – perhaps the branch of a tree? You could also place it high up on a wall or in a bush, as long as you're sure it'll be secure and won't fall down. Try and choose somewhere that will allow you to see if bees are coming and going.

GO ON A BEE HABITAT HUNT

Now you know a bit more about where bees live, you could try going for a walk with a grown-up and seeing if you can spot any bee homes in the wild. Be careful to keep your distance though – you don't want the bees to think they've got an unwelcome guest!

There's a lot of information online about different varieties of bees, so check out which ones are most likely to live near you and then set off on your journey!



MAKE A BEE PICTURE OUTSIDE

Bees are really beautiful creatures and we can celebrate this fact by having some fun making our own pictures of them using natural materials. Why not try one of the following methods and then ask your grown-ups to share your creations with us? We'd love to see your bees!

- 1) Draw a big outline of a bee, taking care to really pay attention to the different features. Is a bee's body made up of just one solid part? Do they have two wings, or more? How many legs do they have?



- 2) Think about the different colours you'll need for the bee – yellow and black, definitely, but are there any others?
- 3) Collect up natural materials to 'colour in' your bee. You might choose flower petals for the yellow part of the body, or colourful leaves. Depending on the time of year, you might also find some delicate skeletal leaves that you could use for the wings.
- 4) Place your leaves, twigs, petals, and anything else onto your bee outline, taking care to overlap them so as little paper as possible shows through.
- 5) If you'd rather, you can create your bee straight on top of the grass, mud or pavement without using any outline. Whatever you choose to do, have fun!

Your grown-ups can share your pictures with us @owletpress

