

The parts of a bee



Museum of
Natural
History

This document summarises the information found in the interactive image it accompanies.

Introduction

Bees have many body parts. Some are similar to our body parts - for example bees have heads and legs. Others, like wings and the antennae, are different to human body parts.

Read below to find out more about each part of a bee.

The parts of a bee

Thorax: the middle body section of a bee, where the legs and wings are attached.

Wings: a bee has two sets of wings: forewings (closest to the head), and hind wings (furthest from the head).

Stinger: a sharp part of the bee which can inject venom to 'sting' something.

Abdomen: the end body section of a bee, where the stinger is found.

Compound eye: a bee has two large compound eyes that detect movement and colour.

Simple eye: a bee has three small (simple) eyes on top of its head; they help the bee find its way, using the Sun.

Head: this is where a bee's brain is, and also where the antennae, proboscis and eyes are attached.

Antennae: a bee uses its antennae to 'smell', and to feel when things are moving close by.

Proboscis: a straw-like mouth a bee uses to drink

Legs: worker honey bees have tools on their back (hind) legs to carry and collect pollen.

