

NECTAR

collector

Big Bee
Challenge



Honeybees must fly about 55,000 miles just to make one jar of honey. Can you 'bee' a winner in the nectar relay race?

Bees lap up the sweet nectar of flowers with their tongues, moving between plants and transferring pollen. Some types of bees have long tongues, others have short ones. Unlike butterflies who suck up nectar, bees dip their tongues in.



Activity: Have a nectar relay race with your friends

- Divide into two teams and line up ready for a relay race
- Share out a range of spoons between the teams, short handled, long handled, teaspoons, small scoops. You choose how to do this
- Make up 2 different colours of water with food colouring, each team will collect one colour
- Pour the water into beakers and place these around the garden (you could make some beakers full and some nearly empty)
- On your turn, choose a spoon and buzz around the garden looking for your coloured water (nectar). Fill your spoon and return to your team. Pour your nectar into your collecting pot
- The team with the most nectar wins!



Think about what it was that helped you to collect the most nectar. What can you learn about bees from this?

Top tip:

Plant a wide range of flowers to attract all types of bees and pollinators. Simple flower shapes are best

Fun facts

Long-tongued bees can reach nectar deep inside tubular shaped flowers like foxgloves, honeysuckle and snapdragons



Short-tongued bees like drinking nectar from flowers with an open shape like primroses, blackberries and forget-me-nots

Bees prefer thick, gloopy nectar but clever flowers make their nectar thin and runny so the bees have to keep coming back for more!



Bees must fill their special 'second tummy' with nectar before returning to home

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