BEE ACTIVE

ACTIVITY PACK

The bees are in danger. They find a sparky bunch of kids to share their troubles with, and explain why there's much more at stake than just honey. With entire food webs threatening to unravel, the kids begin to brainstorm... and come up with a brilliant PLAN.

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INTRODUCTION

Helping our planet can feel overwhelming at times, but every little action really does count, especially when lots of people join in. Just look at the busy bees and other pollinators for proof of what can be achieved. Together, these tiny insects make a HUGE difference. We have them to thank for pollinating three-quarters of the world's crops and eight out of ten of the world's flowering plant species!

But now the pollinators need OUR help – and in this **Bee Active Activity Pack** there are some great suggestions for what we can do.

Before you print...

To save paper this pack is designed to be used digitally. However, if you would like to print it, here are a few ways you can minimise the impact and cost:

- Only print the pages you require
- Print in black and white
- For an activity that involves getting creative, open it on your computer and use programmes such as Microsoft Word and Paint

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Wildflower detective work

Wildflowers are really important for our pollinators, especially early in the year. If we mow grassy areas less often, it gives these flowers a chance to grow. Why not see for yourself!

- Select a patch of freshly-cut grass to investigate. It could be in your local park, in a garden or at your school.

- Count the number of flowers in the grass and the number of bees and butterflies you see.

- Come back as the grass gets longer and count again. Do your results change over time?

- Remember to write down your findings.

You can use your results as evidence if you choose to write a campaign letter. (See the activity called Campaign for more wildflowers.)

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Campaign for more wildflowers

There are two simple things our local councils can do to help the bees and pollinators:

- MOW LESS in parks and along roadsides. This will allow millions more wildflowers to grow.
- STOP USING bee-killing sprays.

Some councils are already taking action. Why not ask yours to join in.

First find out WHO to write to

- Ask your grown-up to help you look up the contact details for your local councillor or council leader.

Be polite and persuasive

- You could start by thanking them for the work they already do. Then explain what you'd like them to help with.

Use some punchy facts

- Three-quarters of our crops need pollinators to grow.
- Many countries have lost over 90% of their wildflower meadows in the last hundred years.
- Mowing and spraying less will save the council time and money, and make less CO_2 too.
- Include any of your own evidence.

You could include a PETITION with your letter. Write what you want the council to do at the top of a piece of paper, then ask your friends and family to sign it.

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How to revive a bee

Bees need regular flower stops to fuel up on nectar and pollen. In cities and towns, flowers can be few and far between, so you might spot an exhausted bee on the ground.
Here's how you can help.

Never touch a bee with your bare hands – you don't want a sting!
Use your sleeve or a leaf and be VERY gentle. Ask your grown-up to help.

- If the bee is in danger of being trod on, move her to a sheltered place, ideally by a flower.
- If the bee is already by a flower, but still looks exhausted, leave her alone. She's either just resting or she may be at the end of her life (bees don't live very long).
- If you see an exhausted bee in a safe place some distance from any flowers, wait 30 minutes to check she's not just resting. If she doesn't fly off, the best thing to do is to take her to some flowers.
- As a last resort, if there are no flowers nearby, you can feed the bee a one-off snack of sugar water. Put a couple of drops in an upturned drinks cap, and give the bee some time to revive herself.

To make sugar water, mix together half white sugar and half water.

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Create your own comic strip

Bees have an awesome SUPERPOWER...

We're POLLINATORS!

Draw some superhero bees here.

Bees SPREAD POLLEN.

Then flowers can turn into FRUITS with SEEDS.

Add in some flowers, fruits and seeds.

Without pollinators we'd have **none** of these.

Doodle some foods that wouldn't exist without pollinators.

NO bees, no seeds, no new plants

I'm hungry.

I'll be hungry soon.

So will I!

Food chains would **break down**.

Draw in plants and animals to make your own food chain.

This is why we need to HELP THE BEES!

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Talk about the environment

Compare the two scenes below and chat to your friends and family about them.

1. What are the main differences between the two places?

2. Which one would you rather live in?

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Make a bee hotel

What you need

- An open-ended container such as a small bucket, a plant pot (without holes) or a tin (without a lid)
- Sheets of brown paper or thin card
- A pair of scissors
- String or a handful of small stones
- A pencil
- Some sticky tape

How to make it

- Make lots of bee tunnels by rolling the pieces of paper or card around your pencil, then securing them with sticky tape and removing the pencil.
- Trim the paper tunnels so they're just a bit shorter than the depth of your container (ask your grown-up to assist).
- Put your container on its side and fill it with the paper tunnels until they're tightly packed and can't move.
- Find a sunny spot that's sheltered from the rain.
- Either make a pile of small stones on the ground and rest your bee hotel on it, or use some string to attach it firmly to a wall, fence or window box.

Wait to see if any bees come and visit your bee hotel. You'll know if a bee has laid her eggs, because she'll seal the end of the hollow stick with bits of leaf or blobs of mud. Baby bees will grow up in the tubes... and fly out the next year.

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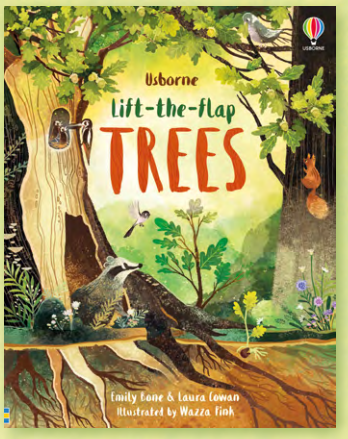
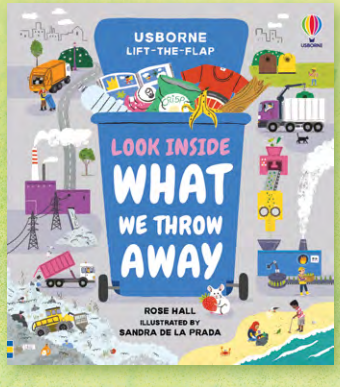
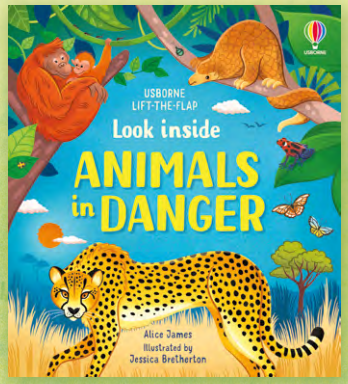
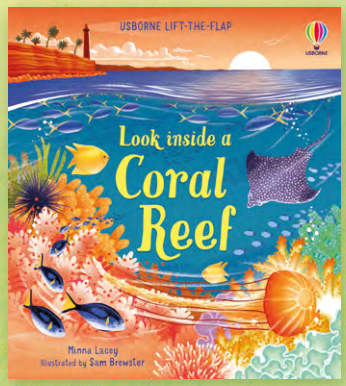
Read more inspiring books

then pass them on to your friends.

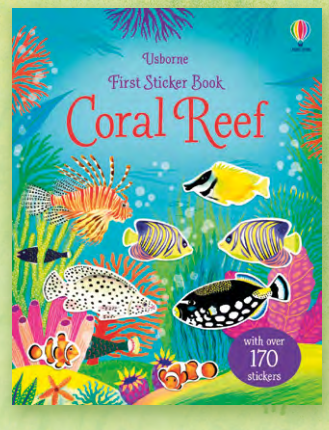


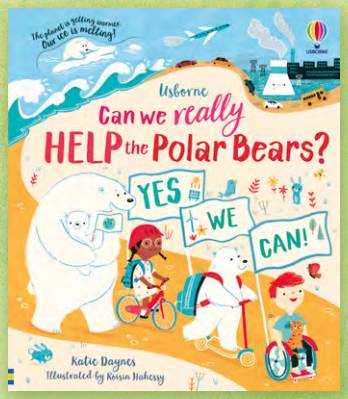






Find out more at usborne.com





Out soon

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