

Bumble Bee Basics

Grade Levels: 2 & 3-4

Gentle and fuzzy, everyone has watched a bumble bee buzzing between flowers in summer; but what about the rest of the year? How do bumble bees overwinter? Where do they raise brood in the spring? How do they fly in the fall, when it is chilly or raining? With indoor and outdoor activities, students examine the life cycle of the bumble bee, its habitat requirements, and its vital role as a pollinator. They are introduced to the differences in color patterns between species, learn how to enhance pollinator habitat and may observe queens in search of nest sites, workers foraging or new queens preparing for winter.

Next Generation Science Standards Addressed:

Second Grade

2-LS2-2. Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants.

2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Third Grade

3-LS1-1. Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction and death.

3-LS2-1. Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.

Fourth Grade

4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior and reproduction.

4-LS1-2. Use a model to describe that animals receive different types of information through their senses, process the information in their brain and respond to the information in different ways.