



Save the bees

## Make a bee hotel

Bees are famous for producing honey, but they also do a much more important job; they help to provide a lot of the food that we eat. Many fruit and vegetables rely on insects to fly around, dipping into their flowers and spreading their pollen. This helps plants to produce seeds, which become new plants.

Bees are the ultimate pollen and nectar collectors but as our world changes, they face many challenges. As our towns grow and the countryside disappears, it is getting much harder for bees to find food. They have to travel further and further between flowers and often run out of energy.

It is more important than ever that we find ways to help the bees, beetles, butterflies, wasps and other insects to survive. The good news is that there are plenty of ways that we can give them a helping hand.

From planting bee friendly flowers at home or school to leaving them out a little drink. You could even join an online campaign to help save the bees!

Some bees seek out little spaces to nest in, so let's make a bee hotel and give them somewhere for their young to grow.



*You will need: bamboo canes, tape, twine or string, scissors, modelling clay, a clay plant pot*

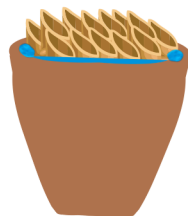
1 Ask a grown up to help you carefully trim the bamboo cane into similar length pieces no longer than the height of the clay pot. Aim for between 15 and 20 pieces.



2 Collect up the pieces of cane so they are end-to-end in a bundle and bind them together with the tape, twine or string.

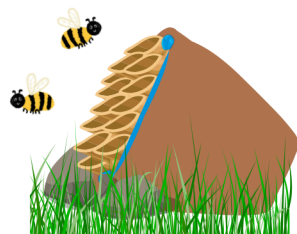


3 Press a lump of modelling clay into the base of the clay pot.



4 Making sure that the open ends of the canes are facing outwards, push the bundle of canes into the pot so they are secured in the modelling clay.

5 If needed, use some extra modelling clay around the edges so the canes are tightly wedged inside the pot.



6 Lie the pot on its side in a dry and sunny spot.

## Here are some more ways we can help the bees

### Plant bee-friendly flowers

You don't need a huge amount of space to grow plants like lavender, thyme or sage. Even a window box or pot will help.

### Don't mow the lawn

If you let the grass grow then it will flower, providing a great source of food for hungry insects.

### Go chemical free

Weedkillers are as dangerous for bees and other insects as they are for the pests they are made to deal with.

### Create a bee bath

Fill a small dish or bowl with clean water and a few pebbles so that the bees can take a drink without drowning.

