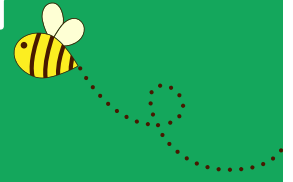


# BIODIVERSITY WEEK

## ANIMAL OF THE DAY

### BEES



- There are over 100 different species of bee in Ireland!
- The type many people are most familiar with are bumblebees. Even then we have 21 different species of bumblebee! We also have one species of honey bee and about 80 species of solitary bees.
- Bumblebees and honey bees are social. They live together in large hives. Honey bees are the only bees which produce honey.
- Like the name suggests, solitary bees live by themselves! They are generally smaller than bumblebees and come in a variety of colours.
- There are lots of rumours about bee stings but did you know that only female bees can sting?
- Bees are the most important pollinators in Ireland. Many flowers and food crops rely on bees to transfer pollen between flowers. This allows that plant to produce a seed and a new plant to grow!
- More than half of Irish bee's numbers are declining with 30% at risk of extinction. The biggest threat to bees is the lack of habitat and food sources.

**Check out some of the activities that may suit your class below!**

Junior Videos	Indoor Activities	Outdoor Activities
<a href="#">What's the buzz about bees.</a> Short video about why we need bees!	Try your hand making this <a href="#">Bee Origami!</a> You will need a square of card!	Try a <a href="#">FIT count</a> . Observe a patch of flowers for 10 minutes and see what insects come to visit!
<a href="#">Clever Queen Bumblebees.</a> How do bees get warm?	Try this online <a href="#">bumblebee identification course</a> . (Secondary and senior primary only)	Primary Students: Go on a Bumblebee Walk! Head out and see how many Bumblebees you see. Note the different colours of their bands.
<a href="#">Round and Waggle.</a> How Honey Bees dance to send a message!	Check out the <a href="#">Junior Pollinator Plan</a> for ideas on how to help bees!	Secondary Schools: Take part in a walk as part of the <a href="#">Bumblebee monitoring scheme</a> .