

For North Somerset Beekeepers website:

NEW SECTION for website

## **FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH GROUPS AND SCHOOLS**



If you would like to find out more about honey bees this will help you.

We have some interesting facts here and links to other places where you can find further information.

If you are a member of a school or youth group in the area then we can arrange a visit you to give a talk or demonstration

## FOR TEACHERS AND YOUTH GROUP LEADERS



Young people are usually fascinated by honey bees. We have beekeepers that can come and:

- Give a demonstration to a class
- Talk to an assembly about beekeeping
- Explore the contents of a bee hive
- Give a talk to your youth group

If you live in the North Somerset or South Bristol area and would like further information about what we can provide then contact:

rob [-francis@virgin.net](mailto:rob-francis@virgin.net)  
or phone Rob Francis on  
01275462914

We have devised a leaflet that gives basic information about the honey bee. It is designed for children over the age of eight. You can download it here: *(Link to pdf leaflet What do you know about honey bees)*

There are many good YouTube videos that introduce the natural history of the honey bee.

Two good ones to start with about the Natural history of the honey bee are:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7cX2cjFunw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsCmSWoF8PY>

We have also produced two videos that might interest you.

### **A Journey into a Beehive**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgAibEdrHpg>

### **How to catch a swarm.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAdMDDFrlcQ>

## **FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

If you want to find out more about honeybees or if you are doing a project in school about bees here are some facts:



### **What are honey bees?**

Honeybees are insects. The honeybee lives in groups called a colony. They first evolved about 35 million years ago in tropical Africa and because honey is so popular, bees now live all over the world.

## What is a bee's life cycle?

The queen lays each egg in one cell of the honeycomb. Each egg hatches and a little worm-like larva crawls out. The worker bees feed pollen and honey to the baby larva. Soon, it spins a web blanket inside the cell and becomes a pupa. After 16 to 24 days, a fully grown bee climbs out of the cell. They live between 3 to 6 months depending on the time of year and food available.

Would you like to take a journey into a beehive  
Click here (Link to video Journey into a beehive)

## Are all the bees in the colony the same?

No. There are different bees for different jobs. Every colony has one queen, which is the largest bee. The workers are female bees and are the smallest in size but the largest in number. There are also male drones and the brood is made up of eggs, larvae, and pupae.

**honeybee**  
(*Apis mellifera*)



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## What is a hive and how does it work?

The hive is the colony's home or nest. The outside is often a man-made box like this one, and the inside is made from wax, which the bees produce themselves. The queen and most of the bees live in the bottom of the hive in the brood chamber. The top contains the honey.

## **Why do bees swarm?**

As the number of bees in the hive increases, some of the bees leave to set up a new colony in a new location. They form a big group known as a swarm. The queen leaves the colony and about half of the worker bees and drones follow her in search of a new home. She is usually replaced with a new queen after a couple of weeks. Another new queen is left behind with the other half to continue the old colony.



To Look at our video about how to catch a swarm click here:

([Link to Video on Youtube](#))

If you would like to print out this information as a leaflet then click here:

(Link to the pdf leaflet)

**SOME OTHER LINKS THAT MIGHT HELP YOU:**

The British Beekeepers Association. A lot of general information here:

<http://www.bbka.org.uk/>

A good introduction in how to keep bees:

<http://www.bestbeekeeping.com>

Find out about the history of bee hives at:

<http://outdoorplace.org/beekeeping/history1.htm>

Beekeeping for beginners

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3946](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3946)

Questions most often asked by children

<http://website.lineone.net/~dave.cushman/childrensquestions.html>

There above links have been kindly provided for us from another school  
*(I'm trying to contact the school to get their permission)*