



Fascinating Facts about Bees

- Believe it or not, over 22 000 kinds of bee have been discovered!
- Even though honey bees live for just over a month, they have very full lives. Bees are always changing jobs. A bee starts life as a cleaner – then becomes a babysitter, a builder, then a chef, a security guard and an undertaker. Later it goes outside as a food collector and scout.
 - Honey bees harvest an amazing two million flowers to give us a half a kilogram jar of honey.
 - Scientists have proved that honey has healing power – it actually fights bacteria.
 - Bees can actually tell the time because they have a body clock like ours.
- Humans have five senses. Bees have six.
 - Honey bees have the second most complex language in the world. Humans use words, but bees use dances to talk.
- Honey bees won't sting you if you leave them alone. They only sting in defence because they will die after stinging a human or large animal.
 - The Australian Aboriginals have always been skilled honey hunters. Honey hunters used to track wild bees by sticking a bit of cockatoo fluff to a bee using tree gum and following it.
- One of the most violent species of bee is the Killer (Africanised) bee. A scientist in Brazil created them by crossing bees from Africa and Europe. But 26 killer queens escaped from his lab and they're now spreading through the Americas, invading beehives.
 - Bee Wolves, or Bee-killer Wasps, are wasps that catch honey bees on flowers. They paralyse them and take them back to a nest. There, they lay eggs in the living bees. The bee-wolf larvae eats the bees!



For more fascinating information about bees, read *Sting* and *Wings* by Raymond Huber

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