

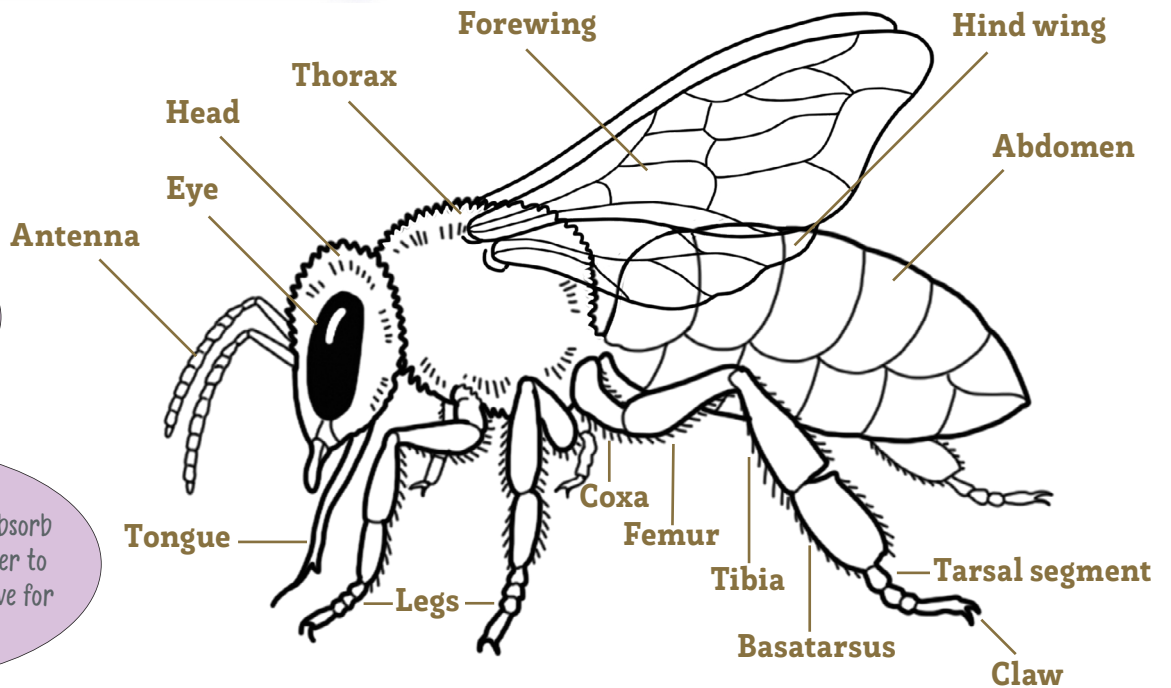
Parts of a Bee

Did you know? A bee is an animal known as an **insect**. Each type of bee is called a **species**. Scientists who study bees (*mellitologists*) use the parts of a bee to identify them. To help understand how alike or different they are, scientists put similar species together into a group called a **genus**. In this book, you'll learn about a few of the most common **genera** (plural of genus) in Oregon.

Honey Bee

All bees have 3 body segments (head, thorax, abdomen), 6 legs, and 4 wings.

Honey bees have two stomachs; one stomach to absorb and digest food and the other to carry nectar back to the hive for honey making.



Wings - A bee's wings beat so fast they make a buzzing sound! Their wings help them fly up, down, forward, backwards and sideways, and hover. Honey bees' wings beat over 200 times per second.

Legs - Bees use their legs for a lot more than walking. **Just the honey bee:** Their front legs have hairy brushes they use to push pollen toward their back legs and to clean their head and antennae. They use their middle legs to move flower parts and to push pollen on their upper body to their back legs. Then they use their back legs to pack pollen in their pollen baskets (see top of next page). When their baskets are full, they return to the nest. They use their middle legs to pass the pollen from their baskets to another worker in the hive.



Cuckoo Bee

Bees are like super-athletes with body parts adapted to help them find flowers and collect pollen and nectar!

Tongue - A bee's tongue (or *proboscis*) is a thin and hairy tube. It can reach into flowers to suck nectar out like a straw, lick up water and honey, and pass food to other bees. It also helps bees communicate!

Antennae - A bee's two antennae are connected to the brain and swivel in all directions. The tiny hairs on them respond to touch and smell.

Eyes - Bees have five eyes! Their two big eyes (called *compound eyes*) have thousands of tiny lenses each. These eyes help bees find flowers by sensing differences in light, color and movement. Bees' three small eyes (called *ocelli*) detect brightness and intensity of light, not images, and are arranged in a triangle between the compound eyes.