

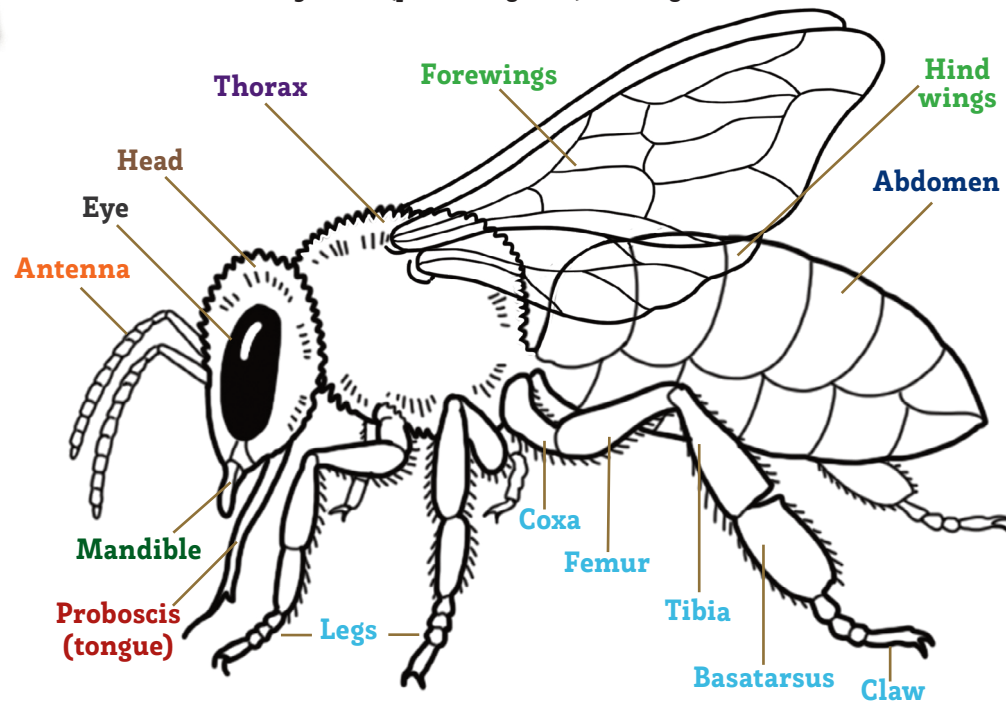
Anatomy of a Bee and an Acrostic Poem

WOW Bees are like superheroes with body parts adapted to help them find flowers and nectar, and collect pollen to help make our food.



Urbane Digger Bee sheltered from the rain in a gentian flower

Did you know? All insects, like bees, are animals! Each type of bee is called a *species*. All bees have 2 antenna, 3 body segments (head, thorax, abdomen), 4 wings (2 sets), 5 eyes and 6 legs. Teams of 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.



Color each body part on this honey bee the same color as its label.

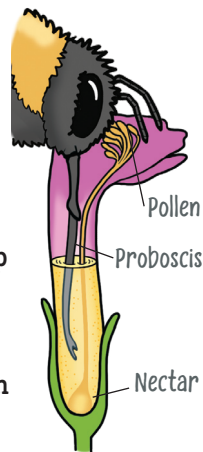
A Closer Look

Antennae - A bee's two antennae are connected to the brain and swivel in all directions. The tiny hairs on them respond to touch, taste and smell, like floral scents. Bees have stereo smelling, meaning they can tell which direction a smell comes from with the help of the antennae on either side of their head!



Mandibles - These strong mouth-parts help bees to hold onto plants, cut leaves for nesting, carry nesting materials and cut holes in flowers so they can get closer to the nectar. Honey bees use them to shape wax.

Proboscis - A bee's tongue-like proboscis is a thin and hairy tube. It can reach into flowers to suck nectar out like a straw, lick up water and taste. Some bees have a longer proboscis to help reach the nectar in flowers that have narrow and deep floral tubes.



A bumble bee eating from red clover

Thorax - The middle segment of the bee that includes their wings and legs and controls movement.



A carpenter bee

Wings - A bee's wings help it to fly up, down, forward and backward and to hover. Bees have a set of front and back wings. The sets attach with hooks when the bee takes flight.

Three Types of Pollen-Carrying Structures:

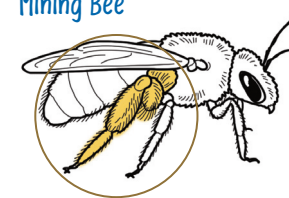
Some types of female bees have pollen-carrying structures like in the examples below:

Honey Bee



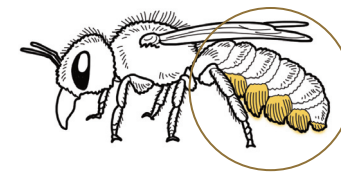
1 Corbicula (pollen basket)- The corbicula is a shiny, concave spoon-like area, with hair fringed on the sides to hold in pollen.

Mining Bee



2 Scopa (dense hairs on back leg)

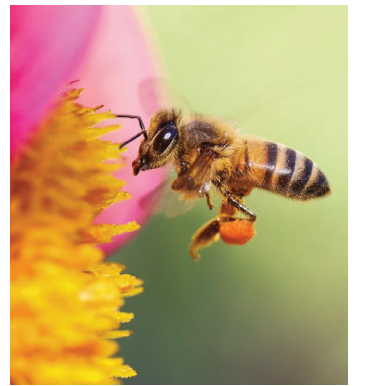
Leafcutter Bee



3 Scopa (dense hairs beneath the abdomen)



The word scopa comes from the Latin word for "broom." The scopa is like thick broom bristles sweeping up pollen.



A pollen ball on the leg of a honey bee. Only female bees collect pollen.

Acrostic Poem

What is it? An **acrostic** is a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word. Often, that word is the title of the poem. Here's an example:

Cherry

- C**ool-weather blossoms
- H**elped to grow by mason bees
- E**xcellent fresh or in fruit salad or parfait
- R**uby red, pink or yellow
- R**ipe in midsummer
- Y**ou can't eat just one!



Mason Bee

Your Turn!

Try writing an acrostic poem about your favorite fruit or vegetable that bees help make! First, write your title on the top line, then write it again in large letters, one letter at a time, in the blocks on the side of the page. Use as many blocks as you need. Now write something you like about your fruit or vegetable or the bee that helps make it that begins with the letter at the start of each line.

Find someone to read your poem to!



A honey bee and Cherry Blossoms