



Bumbles



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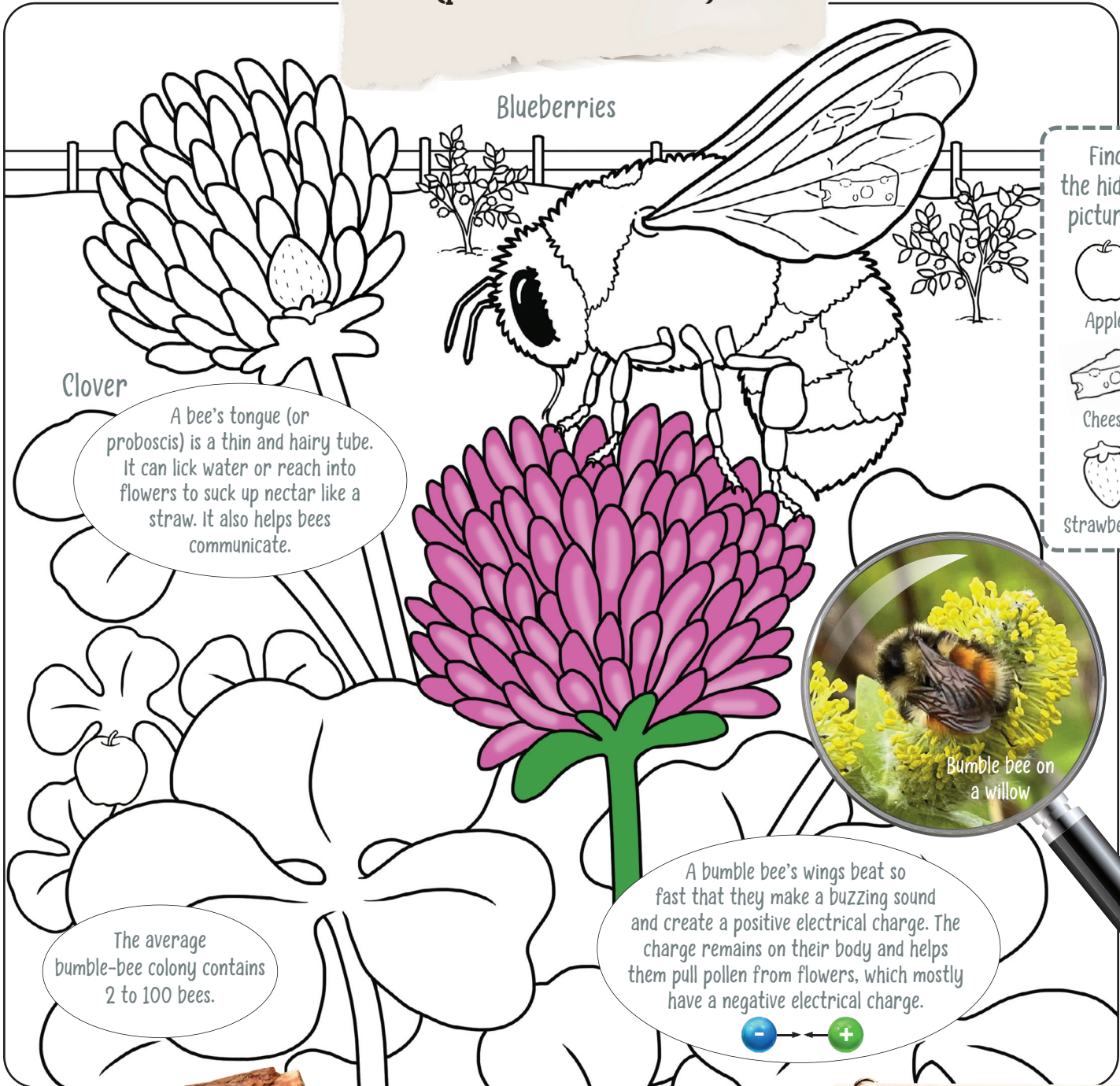
# Social Bees

## Bumble Bees

Genus: *Bombus*  
(pronounced BOM-bus)



Bumble Bee  
11 to 23 mm in length



Blueberries

Clover

A bee's tongue (or proboscis) is a thin and hairy tube. It can lick water or reach into flowers to suck up nectar like a straw. It also helps bees communicate.

The average bumble-bee colony contains 2 to 100 bees.

A bumble bee's wings beat so fast that they make a buzzing sound and create a positive electrical charge. The charge remains on their body and helps them pull pollen from flowers, which mostly have a negative electrical charge.



Find the hidden pictures!



Apple



Cheese



Strawberry



Bumble bee on a willow

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**Bumble bees** are important pollinators of many wild and agricultural plants (plants grown by farmers). Some of the crops they pollinate include cranberries, blueberries and other berries, apples, tomatoes, peppers and squash. They are large and fuzzy bees, and their bodies are most often colored with a mixture of black, yellow, orange, brown or white hairs. In Oregon they are important pollinators of red clover. Oregon is one of the largest growers of clover seed in the world. Farmers buy the seed to grow clover plants, which are fed to cows and other livestock that give us milk, cheese, yogurt, eggs, meat and more.



A trait of this bee is that it is large.

Name a synonym and antonym for large:

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**Have you ever seen a bumble bee? Where? What was it doing?**