

**Watching bees is a great way to learn about the amazing things they do, like how they help make healthy food!**



**Too afraid to think about going near a bee?**

You are not alone – it makes sense to feel afraid of insects that can sting. Let's go over a few facts that might help you and your friends feel more confident around bees and observe them safely.

**Bees would rather not sting you!**

Bees sting to protect themselves from creatures that want to eat them. You may not have thought about it, but many animals in the wild eat bees. Birds, frogs, toads, lizards, spiders and some larger insects depend on bees for protein and other nutrients. Most humans do not threaten bees, so bees rarely sting them. When stings do happen, it's often because someone accidentally swats or steps on a bee, or is standing too close to a nest. Most of the time, though, it is safe to observe bees around you.

**Bees help make food.**

Bees help make lots of our foods, from fruits and vegetables to nuts and even cheese! When bees pollinate plants in the wild, they also help make the flowers, fruits and seeds that many animals depend on for food.

**Bees help make new plants.**

Bees help make seeds, which provide the world with new plants. Farmers use seeds to help grow our food. Seeds are also important to forests, prairies, wetlands, riverways and other ecosystems in Oregon and around the world. Ecosystems depend on new plant growth every year and could not survive without bees!



We need bees!

# Fun Facts About Bees and How to Safely Watch Them



An ecosystem is a group of living and non-living things that share an environment.

## True or False – Fun Bee Facts

**1. Only female bees can sting.**

**True!** The body part bees sting with (the stinger) is the same body part bees use to lay their eggs. Since only females lay eggs, only females can sting.

**2. Bees can only sting one time.**

**True and False!** This is true only for honey bees. All other bees can sting more than once. When a honey bee stings you, its stinger, along with a special venom sack, rips off the bee and sticks into you. This kills the bee.

**3. Some people are allergic to bee stings.**

**True!** Bee stings hurt for a few minutes, but most people are not harmed by them. Some people are allergic to bee stings and need to be extra careful when they are around bees.