

North America's Pollinating Bees

Bumblebees

- Defies the laws of physics (shouldn't be able to fly)
- Works 8 times harder than the honeybee
- Super messy but efficient pollinator
- Vibrates to pollinate
- Can fly higher than the peak of Everest



Mason Bees

- More than 150 different types of them
- Won't sting you unless you squeeze them (so, you know, don't squeeze them)
- Every female is a queen bee

Sweat Bees

- Will swarm sweaty people (they love the smell of them)
- Recognized by their green metallic colour
- Digs vertically
- Total loners



Cuckoo Bees

- Steals nests instead of building their own
- Kills other bee's eggs to lay their own
- Will kill each other to get food
- Not even good pollinators

Carpenter Bees

- Has a super long lifespan (3 years!)
- Lives like the Kardashians (mom and daughters share a nest)
- Males can't sting you; females don't want to



Leafcutter Bees

- Line their homes with pieces of leaves
- 1 leafcutter can pollinate as well as 20 honeybees
- Eggs are laid with food (the young don't dig their way out – they eat their way out!)

Digger Bees

- Very fast flying
- More than 900 species of them
- Has two stomachs – one for eating and one for storage



Yellowjacket Wasps

- Technically not a bee (but we needed one more to make this look even)
- Transports pollen by accident
- Super aggressive
- Will fight you for the Coke you're drinking

North America's Other Pollinating Things

Hover Flies

- Pretends to be a bee so birds think twice about grabbing them
- Larvae help to control aphids (which harm agricultural crops)



Bee Flies

- Head is way too small for its body
- So hairy the pollen just sticks to them
- Larvae eat the larvae of other insects

Monarch Butterfly

- Migrates thousands of kilometres
- Feeds on milkweed which prevents them from being eaten by birds (who hate the taste)
- Use their feet to identify what plant they've landed on



Sphinx and Hawk Moths

- Often confused with hummingbirds
- Travels at more than 50 km/hr
- Flies sideways to avoid being eaten

Blister Beetles

- Their young ride around on bees
- Can only survive if bees survive
- Taste bad to predators
- As the name suggests – they can blister human skin (ouch)



Soldier Beetles

- They're rectangular (as you can see)
- Excellent foragers
- Eat the eggs and larvae of other insects
- You'll find them on plants with BIG flowers