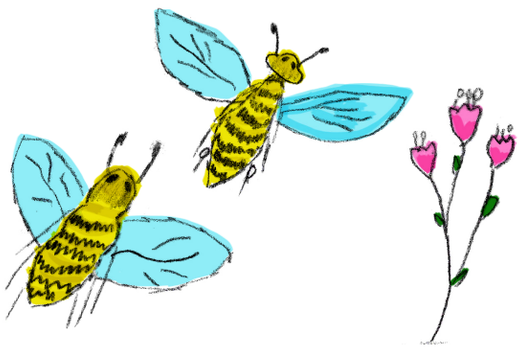
Our Biodiversity Worksheet

Did you know that Richmond Barracks has a garden? A beautiful outdoor space that everyone (people and pollinators!) is welcome to enjoy.

Our Eco-Gardener Polly Rowley-Sams hosted a Children's Biodiversity Workshop and the budding naturalists who took part created this worksheet about biodiversity and honeybees for visitors at Richmond Barracks. All of the pictures, fun bee facts and the map were created by the children. Their hard work will also be used as part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, a plan that aims to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive. We would like to thank Tara, Charlie H, Sadie, Erin, Charley Rose, Fionn, Cillian, Charlie C and Kaja for all their hard work, enthusiasm and passion for pollinators.



Biodiversity

'Biodiversity' includes all the variety of life on Earth. It is the diversity of nature, of our habitats, plants, and animals (including us) and their interconnections with each other.

- Biodiversity is important because about 75% of our food supply comes from just 12 plant species. Those species couldn't exist without help from hundreds of thousands of lesser known species working behind the scenes. Every species is important for biodiversity as they all help each other.
- By leaving biodiversity intact, we let natural evolutionary processes continue.
- Honeybees and other pollinators are key to biodiversity. Small as they are, they play a very BIG part of a healthy ecosystem.



Honeybees

We have a beehive in Richmond Barracks.

The queen bee lives at the bottom of the hive and is not allowed to go to the top.

In a hive, different honeybees work in different parts of the hive - some go out to get pollen, others place it into the hexagons and others protect the queen bee.

Honeybees' different jobs

Fanning

A chain of fanning honeybees, from honey stores to hive entrances, beat their wings to maintain airflow and keep the hive at a good temperature.

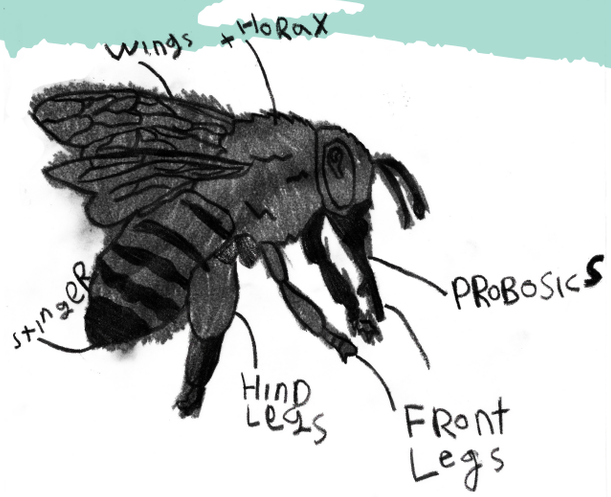
Forager

Foragers return from the fields with nectar-filled stomachs, and many also have brightly coloured lumps of pollen on their hind legs.

Guard Duty

The colony's first line of defence and an early warning system, guard bees assess traffic coming into the hive and warn of any intruders.





Honeybees fun facts

1. Honeybees live in a beehive.
2. Honeybees build in a hexagon shape.
3. Honeybees collect pollen from flowers.
4. Only female honeybees can sting.
5. Female honeybees do all the work and the men honeybees just lie around.
6. Honeybees have 5 eyes and 6 legs.
7. Honeybees beat their wings 200 times per second.



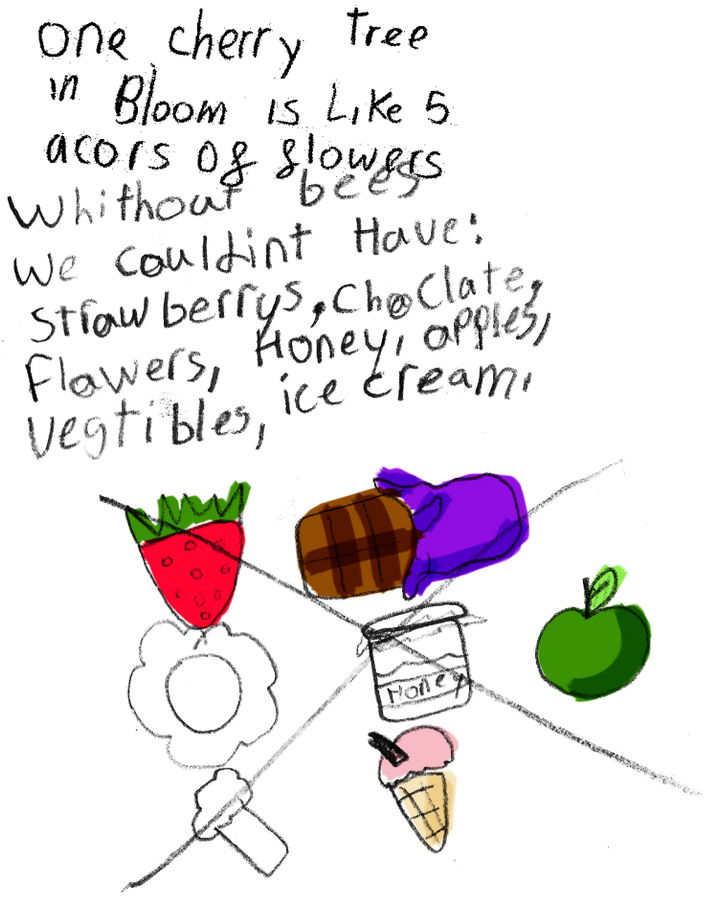


More birds and honeybees please!

Here are some ideas for ways you can help pollinators:

1. Plant a butterfly-friendly garden with a variety of native flowering plants so pollinators can feed all season long.
2. Make sure your plants have enough room, give them breathing space.
3. Avoid using pesticides, even organic ones.
4. If you can, let a corner of your garden go wild. Pollinators will 'go wild' for it!
5. Put out or even make bird boxes, bird houses, bird baths and bird feeders.

Did you know?



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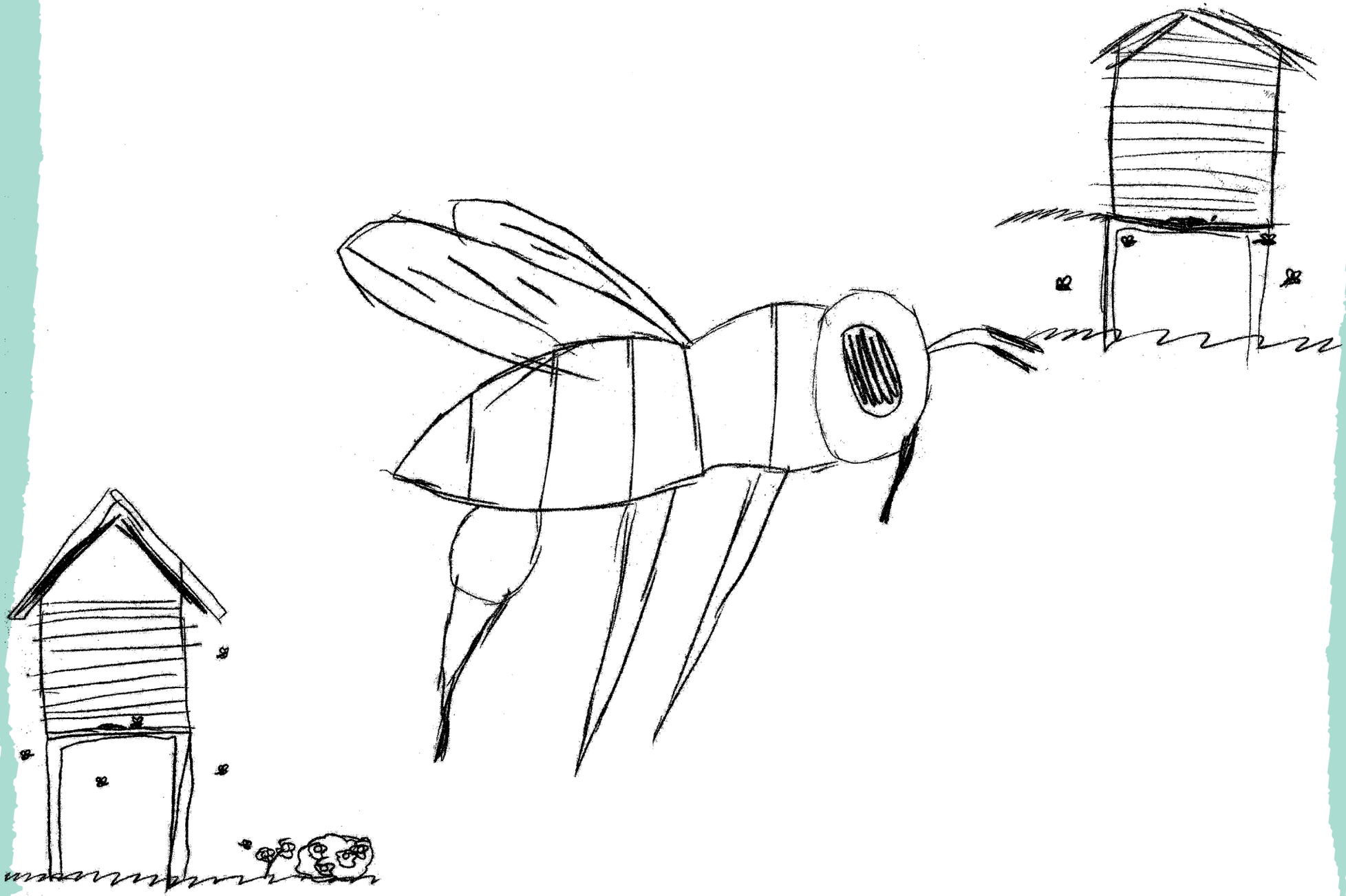
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Bees
Queen
Hive
Pollen
Ecosystem
Species
Habitat
Bio
Colony



Colour in the picture

We would love to see your pictures. Share them with us via email at **info@richmondbarracks.ie** or via our socials and tag us in the post.



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