

## Why do bumblebees need flowers?

Flowers contain pollen and nectar. Bumblebees need both of these to help them grow and to give them energy.

Without flowers bumblebees would starve and die.

Different bumblebees have different lengths of tongue. This makes them good at drinking from different shaped flowers. The bumblebee on the right has a long tongue.



Colour in the bumblebee and the flower

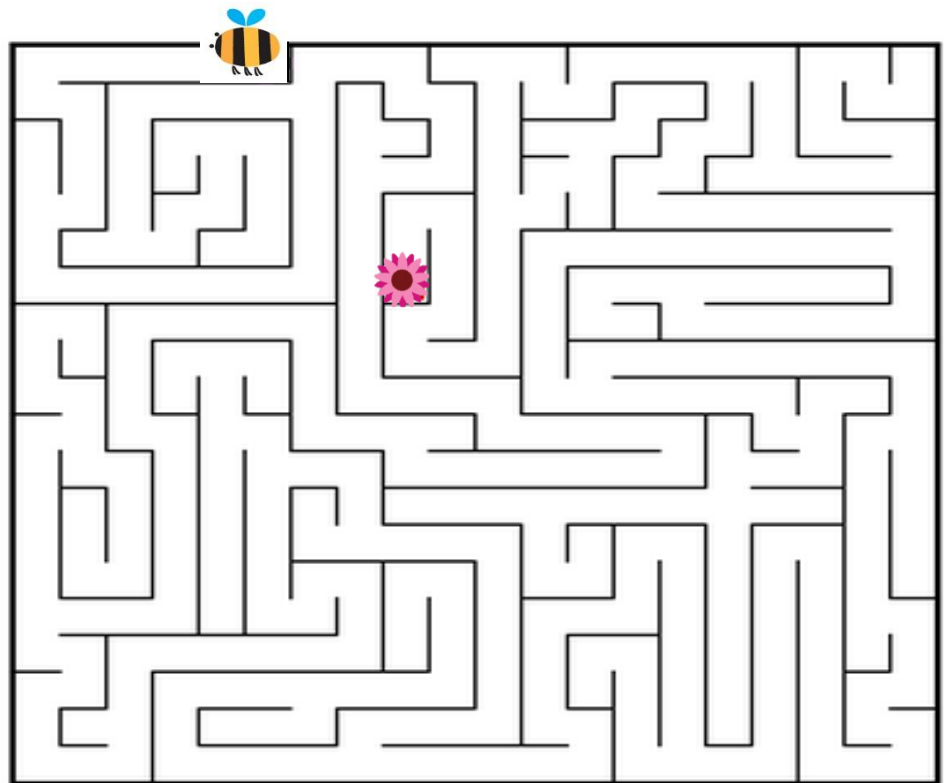
## Wildflower Facts

- Wildflowers contain lots of **pollen and nectar** for bumblebees to eat.
- The British countryside used to be covered in beautiful **wildflower meadows**.
- Sadly, changes to farm land have caused most of our wildflowers to **disappear**.
- This means our **bumblebees are starving** – they don't have enough food to eat.
- **We can help** both bumblebees and wildflowers by planting wildflowers in our gardens.

## Help the hungry bumblebee to find her way to the flower for something to eat.

Would you like it if you had to search for food to eat?

Bumblebees need food from March – September. If a bumblebee visited your garden would it find flowers to feed from at these times?



### Puzzle time

Complete the sums and then match the answer to the letter in the key to complete the sentence. We've done the first one for you to give you a helping hand.

**A good wildflower meadow has ...**

3	5	1	9	5	1	5
+8	+7	+1	+1	-5	+8	+8
11						
F						

0	5
+2	+6



4	3	3	3	0	7	0	8	3
+4	+4	+8	+8	+0	+2	-0	+7	+0

0	1	4	0	1	4	9
+6	+1	+8	+2	+4	+5	+4

8	7	1
-4	+8	+7

4	1	7	6	0	9
+9	+0	-3	+8	+0	+4

Key:

1	6	12	4	11	13	9	7	2	14	5	3	8	10	15	0
H	C	L	A	F	S	R	I	O	P	U	T	D	W	N	E

### Create a wildflower maze in your garden

In the maze on page 1 the bumblebee had to work hard to find the lonely flower. Imagine if the walls of the maze were made of wildflowers! It would be easy, she would have lots of food to eat and it would look much nicer too. So, why not create a wildflower maze in your garden?

**Step 1:** Pick a grassy area in your garden and do nothing! If you let the grass grow instead of cutting it you will get wildflowers growing like daisies, red and white clover, buttercups, dandelions and maybe even some thistles!

**Step 2:** Decide what shape you want your maze to be and get an adult to cut a path through the wildflowers with shears or a small lawnmower.

**Step 3:** Take a walk through the wildflower maze and count how many different kinds of bumblebee you can see on the flowers. See if you can work out which flower is their favourite.



Busy bees activity sheets are produced thanks to the generous support of:

