

There are lots of flying insects that might visit your bumblebee-friendly space. While it is important to encourage a wide range of insects and other animals to our green spaces, we need to be able to tell which ones are bumblebees so that we can keep track of them.

Step 1: Some simple observations to identify bumblebees

Shape – bumblebees are large and have a rounded shape. Most other types of bees and insects are smaller and slimmer.

Hairiness – bumblebees are covered in hair, giving them a fuzzy appearance. Most other types of bees and insects are much less hairy, often having a shiny appearance.

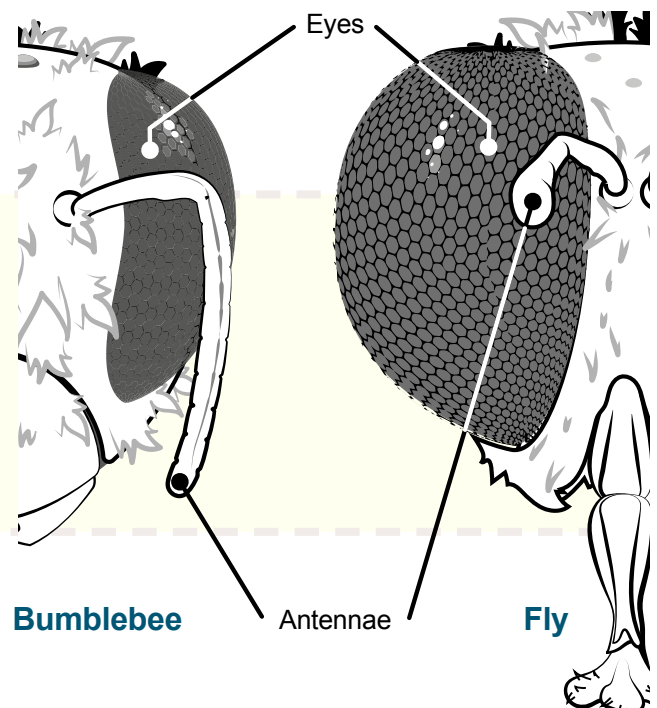
Flight – as the name suggests, bumblebees ‘bumble’ around when they fly. Most other bees and insects are much zippier and dart from place to place.



Step 2: Take a closer look

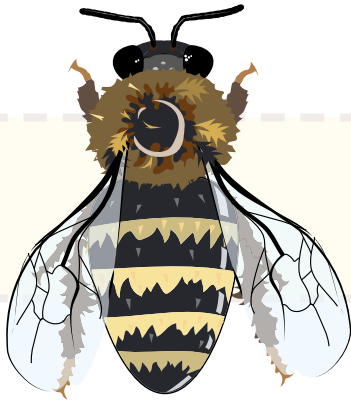
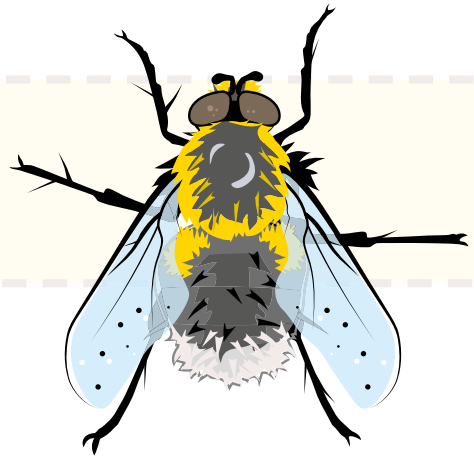
Eyes – Bumblebees, and other bees, have long eyes on the side of their heads. Many other flying insects, such as flies, have large eyes that take up most of the head.

Antennae – Bumblebees and other bees have long antennae with an elbow joint. Many other flying insects have short stubby antennae.

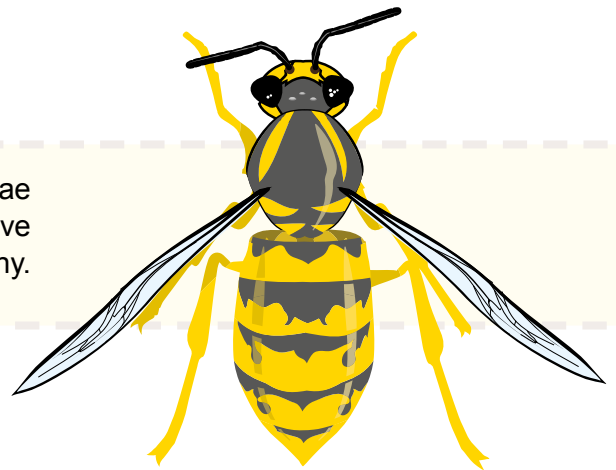


Look out for bumblebee lookalikes

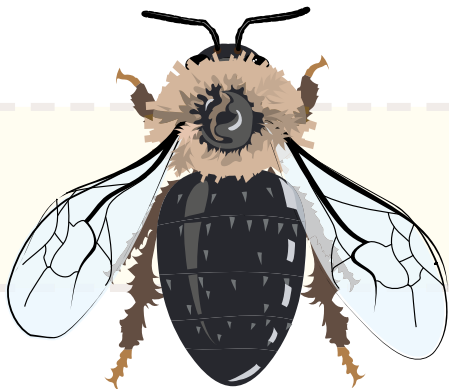
Flies can be round and hairy and even have the same colours and patterns as bumblebees. You can tell them apart by looking out for their big eyes and short antennae.



Honeybees have the same eyes and antennae as bumblebees but are much slimmer and have a distinctive banded pattern.



Wasps have the same eyes and antennae as bumblebees but are slimmer and have very few hairs, making them shiny.

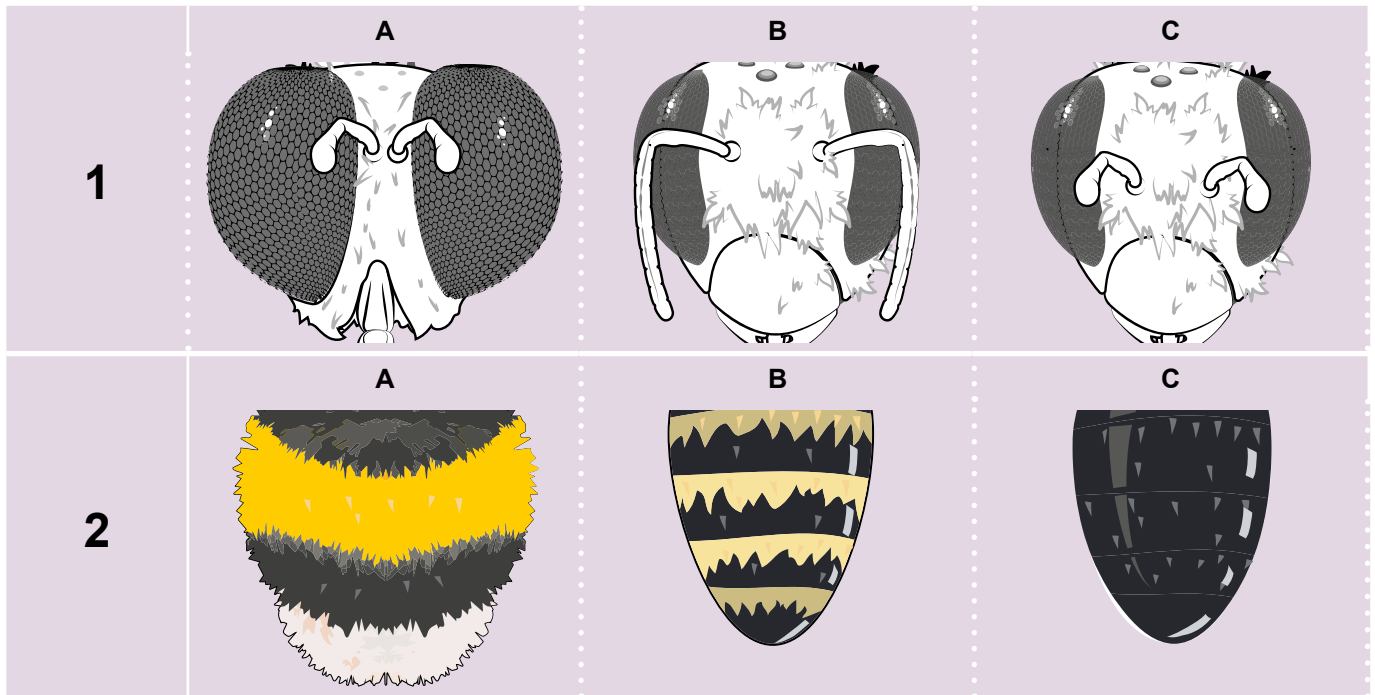


Solitary bees look similar to bumblebees in many ways but tend to be smaller and slimmer, with a less rounded shape.

Here is a true **Bumblebee** with its large, rounded, hairy body.



Can you spot a bumblebee? Based on what you have learned about how to spot a bumblebee, pick out the bumblebee in each row.



Pick out the two bumblebees from the images below.



Answers: 1-B, 2-A; C and E