



NatureScot NàdarAlba

Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba



Lots of relatives!

There are around 20,000 species of bee in the world. The biggest group are the solitary bees.

Over 90% of the world's bees are solitary. They can be superb pollinators.

In Britain we have over 200 species of solitary bee.

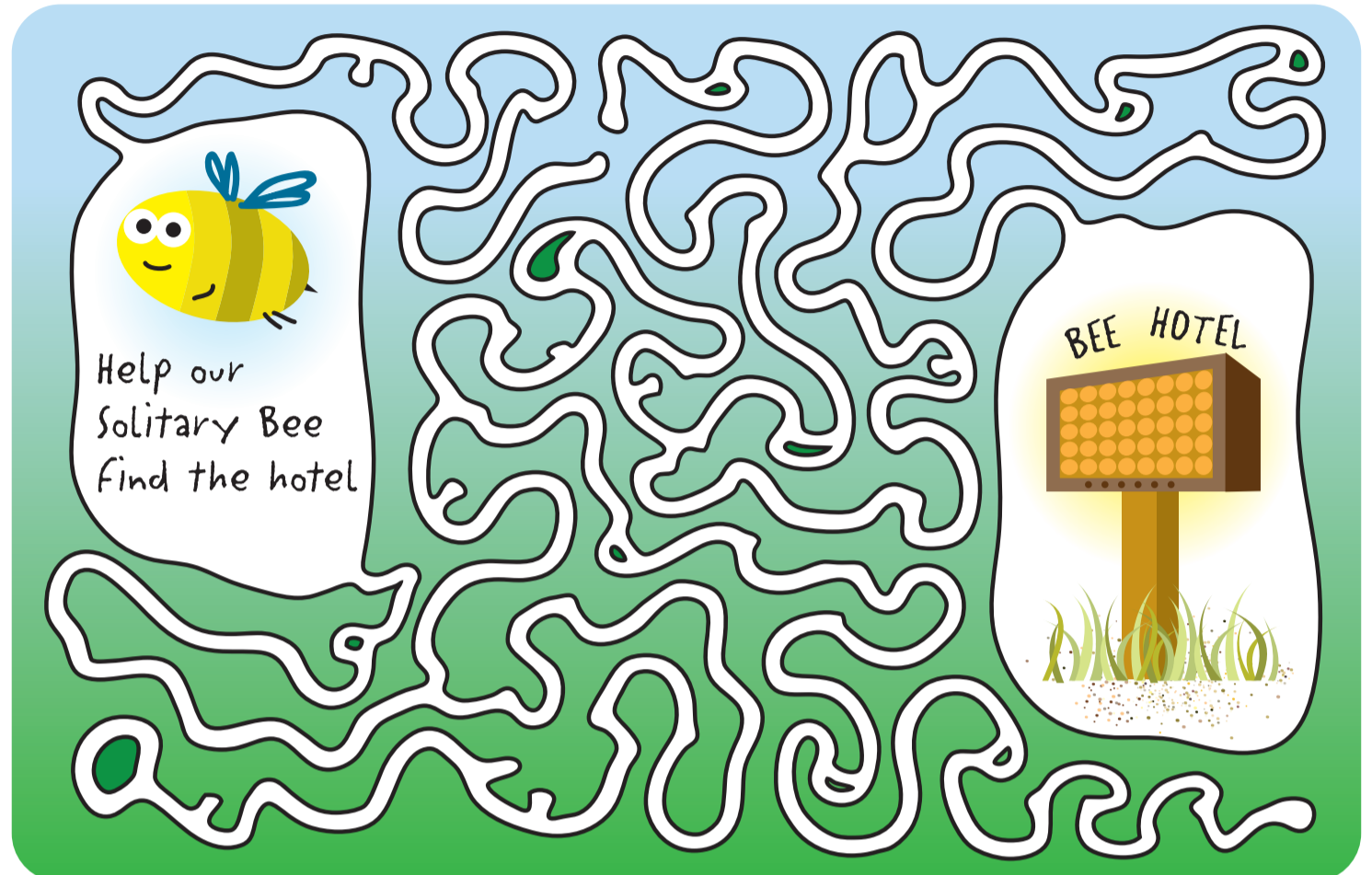


Bringing up baby

Solitary bees do not live in a hive or a nest with other bees. They don't stay with their young either. Instead they leave a supply of food for the emerging young bees to feed on.

Where's your pollen?

Honeybees and bumblebees collect pollen and store it on pollen baskets on their hind legs. Solitary bees collect their pollen and hold it in a brush of hairs either on their back legs or on their tummy.



Beach house

The gold-fringed mason bee lives on the beach but has an unusual home. It only uses empty snail shells for its nest.

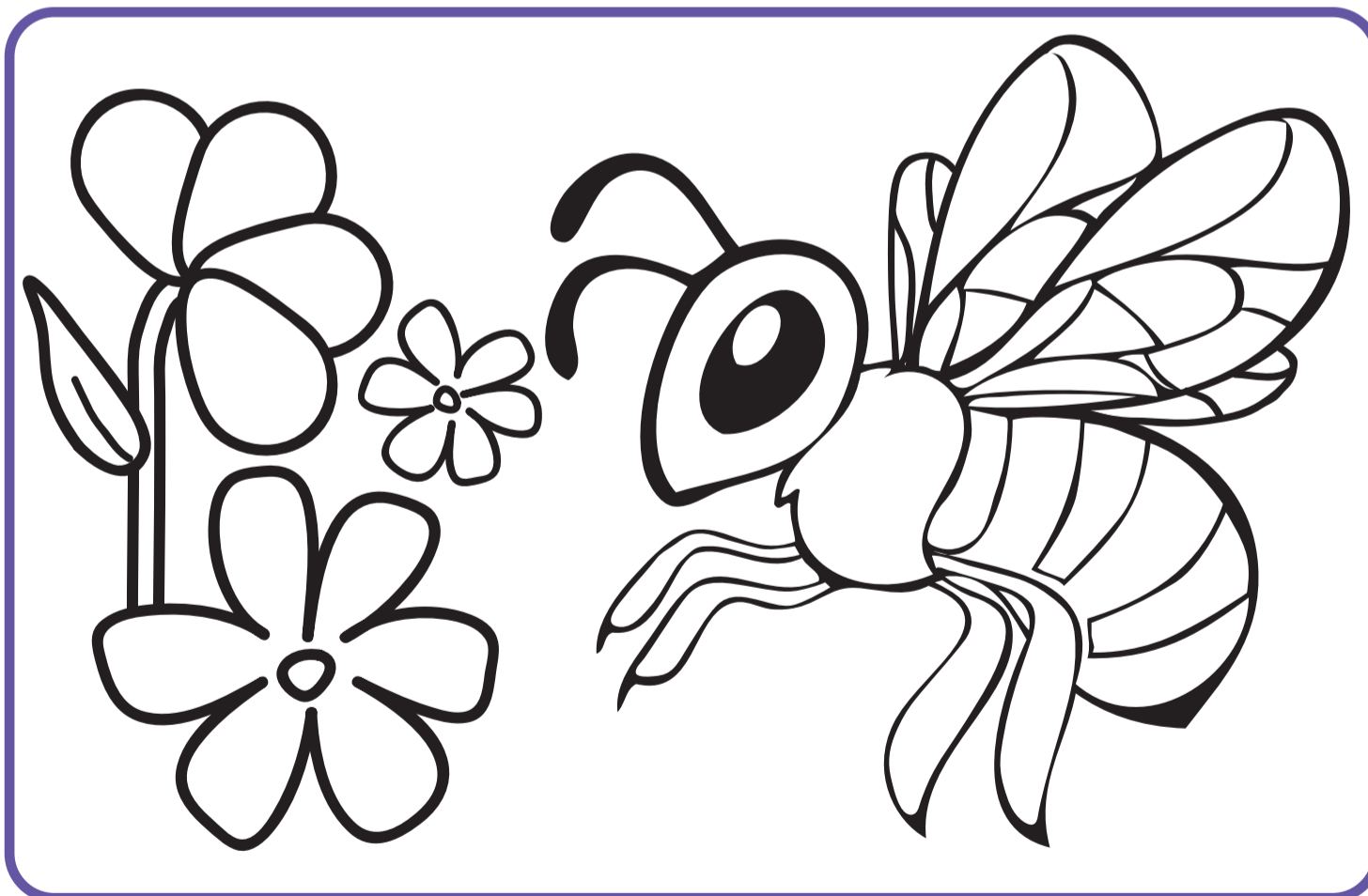
Laugh out loud

What is a bee's favourite tv channel?
The BeeBee C

Nesting habits

Some solitary bees burrow into bare soil to make their nest. They often like banks (not the kind with money in them!) facing south, which warm up in the sun. If you have a south-facing bare earth patch near you, they might just make their home there.

Solitary bees have all sorts of nests. Our picture below shows red mason bees nesting in a bee hotel.



Did you know?

Red mason bees use mud to build their nests.