



# Un-bee-lievable!

## What are pollinators?

- **Animals like bees and butterflies, which carry pollen from one flower to another, are called pollinators.**
- **It is because of pollination that crops and fruit plants are able to make the food we eat.**

Illustration: A shrill carder bee.

# Rare Bee Species Makes Comeback!

**Thanks to the hard work of volunteers in Somerset, there have been more shrill carder bees buzzing around.**

Shrill carder bees are named for their high-pitched buzzing sound. Like other bees, they play an important role in pollinating crops and other plants.

However, according to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, "In the last 80 years, our bumblebee populations have crashed."

One of the reasons for the decrease in bee numbers is that around nine-tenths of the country's grasslands have been lost.

Wildflower meadows are important habitats for bees. This is why people at The National Trust's Lytes Cary Manor, in Somerset, have worked hard to create flower-rich habitats for bees to thrive in.

The volunteers are proud of their work. John Butler, a volunteer, said, "It has been a fantastic project to be involved with. I really hope this work will inspire others to play their part."

## World Bee Day

World Bee Day is on 20<sup>th</sup> May. It is an annual event to teach people about the need for more habitats for bees and other pollinators.

This date was chosen because it celebrates the birthday of Anton Janša. He was famous for being a bee expert.

In one of his books about bees, he wrote that out of all the animals on earth, "there are none so hardworking and useful".

## Glossary

- conservation** Saving and protecting the environment.
- meadows** Fields which have grass and flowers growing in them.
- thrive** Develop or grow healthily and well.
- annual** Happens every year.

# Questions

1. 'Wildflower meadows are vital habitats for bees.' Tick the description which best describes what a 'habitat' is.

- A place where an animal or plant naturally lives.
- A place where living things eat.
- The way something grows.
- How an animal drinks.

2. In the paragraph beginning 'However, according to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust...', which past tense verb is used to describe what has happened to the bee population?

---

3. Complete this sentence from the news story.

Like other bees, they play an \_\_\_\_\_ role in \_\_\_\_\_ crops and other plants.

4. Tick the correct box to show whether a statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
It's a fantastic project.		
Bee numbers have decreased.		
Bees are pollinators.		
World Bee Day is on 20 <sup>th</sup> May.		

5. Find and copy one piece of evidence to support the claim that 'bees are important to our planet.'

---



---

6. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

---



---



---

# Answers

1. 'Wildflower meadows are vital habitats for bees.' Tick the description which best describes what a 'habitat' is.

**A place where an animal or plant naturally lives.**

A place where living things eat.

The way something grows.

How an animal drinks.

2. In the paragraph beginning 'However, according to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust...', which past tense verb is used to describe what has happened to the bee population?

**crashed**

3. Complete this sentence from the news story.

Like other bees, they play an **important** role in **pollinating** crops and other plants.

4. Tick the correct box to show whether a statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
It's a fantastic project.		✓
Bee numbers have decreased.	✓	
Bees are pollinators.	✓	
World Bee Day is on 20 <sup>th</sup> May.	✓	

5. Find and copy one piece of evidence to support the claim that 'bees are important to our planet.'

**Accept any answer which refers to the following: bees being pollinators;**

**bees pollinating plants; bees pollinating crops or fruit trees. For example:**

**It is because of pollination that crops and fruit plants are able to make the food we eat.**

6. Summarise the story in 20 words or fewer.

**Accept any reasonable summary that covers the main points of the article, e.g. Shril carder bees have been helped by volunteers in Somerset.**