



The **B**e**e** WHO Loved **W**o**r**d**s**



Our words have POWER!

And no one understands this more than Persephone the bee.

Hermione, The Queen Bee, thinks Persephone should spend less time with words and more time on the hunt for flowers, which are getting harder and harder to find.

But what if Persephone can use her words to help?

The Bee Who Loved Words by Helen Docherty, illustrations by Eric Salcedo

This pack contains ideas for using *The Bee Who Loved Words* as a starting point for a topic on bees and the environment, with links to six areas of the curriculum: Language, Literacy and Communication, Science and Technology, Mathematics and Numeracy, Humanities, Expressive Arts and Health and Well-being.

Initial hooks to link into *The Bee Who Loved Words*:

Foundation Stage / Key Stage One

Children receive an important letter or video morfo / animation from Persephone or Queen Hermione. They are informed that Persephone / Queen Hermione and all their minibeast friends urgently need their help as there is a shortage of flowers and nature-friendly spaces within their school grounds. The end goal is for the children to develop their outdoor learning environments into nature and eco-friendly spaces. To celebrate their achievements, the children will host a garden gala to welcome Persephone / Queen Hermione and all their minibeast friends to their improved school grounds. All the children and staff could enjoy dressing up as minibeasts for the gala.

Key Stage Two

Children receive a letter or video from a bee-friendly charity (such as Buglife or the Bumblebee Conservation Trust) explaining that they need urgent support to help boost the bee population within their community. The children are tasked with developing an environmentally friendly and nature haven school.

Children could also watch this short Buglife video about B-lines:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXUYZdfqq1Q&t=10s>

Another good place to start is with some of the bee-related activities, crafts and games on the Bumblebee Conservation Trust website:

<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/learning-zone/activities-crafts-and-games/>





Foundation Stage / Key Stage One

Children could:

Learn about the power of words through the task of creating posters and short poems explaining the need to protect the environment and all its wonderful species.

Learn and recite a simplified version of *The Bee Who Loved Words* so that they can innovate it for their own story writing. Children could then 'publish' their stories on recycled paper (that they have made) and share them in a school community library.

Be encouraged to be like a magpie and keep a notebook of interesting words that they discover. They could create a display of the bees collecting all the interesting words the children learn and taking them back to their nests.

Learn about the power of words in relation to developing their emotional literacy skills and learning about how we can label emotions / feelings in order to help us better understand and process them. They could discuss the 'sweet' and 'sour' words in the story, and talk about how these make you feel.

Do phonics work and spelling investigation work based on the words in the story.

Key Stage Two

Children could:

Learn about the power of words through the task of creating and publishing posters, animations, poems, videos to upload to the school website etc explaining the need to protect the environment and all its wonderful species. They could also use green screens to create mock news reports.

Plan and host a spelling bee inspired by Persephone's love for writing words. The children could challenge school staff to a spelling bee for fun or to raise money for an environmental charity such as Buglife or the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, given the significant loss to this species of bees in recent years.

Be encouraged to keep gratitude journals to encourage active reflection about the things that they are grateful for in their world.

Learn about the power of words through a focus on daily affirmations. They could research common affirmations and create their own affirmations for display as posters for in class and around the school.

Use the frame of the story for structuring their own story, using the following question prompts: What is your bee called? What words does she collect? Who does she help? Who tells her she can't? etc.

Rewrite the story from perspective of Queen Hermione.

Write a human newspaper article about the writing on the wall and the public's reaction.

Debate Hermione Vs Persephone, or hot seat interview the characters.

Play a Conscience Alley drama game: should Persephone do as she was ordered or disobey? – giving reasons for and against.

Research the different types of plants that are good for bees, and write a non-fiction piece about them.



Foundation Stage / Key Stage One

Children could:

Learn about the different species of bees; for example, the difference between bumblebees and honeybees, using this Bumblebee Conservation Trust worksheet: https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/BBCT_Kids_Activity_4-6_honeybees_v4.pdf

Learn about how bees see, using this Bumblebee Conservation Trust activity sheet: https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/assets/documents/BBCT_Kids_Activity_4-6_how_bees_see.pdf

Learn why wildflowers are important to bees, using this Bumblebee Conservation Trust worksheet: https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/BBCT_Kids_Activity_4-6_Wildflowers_v3-1.pdf

Using this knowledge, children could plant from seeds, various flowers and wild meadow flowers in their outdoor spaces. This could help children to learn about how plants grow and what they need to survive.

Learn about where wild bees live and how they hibernate, using this Bumblebee Conservation Trust worksheet: https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/assets/documents/BBCT_Kids_Activity_4-6_nests.pdf

Use the Buglife Schools resource pack and education pack to enhance their knowledge about bees: <https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2023/01/Resource-Pack-for-Primary-Schools-v6.pdf>
<https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2023/01/National-Education-Pack-v8.pdf>

Make bee and minibeast hotels out of recyclable and natural materials.

Key Stage Two

Children could:

Learn about the different species of bees; for example, the difference between bumblebees and honeybees, using this Bumblebee Conservation Trust worksheet:

https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/BBCT_Kids_Activity_7-10_Honeybees_v5.pdf

Learn about how bees see, using this Bumblebee Conservation Trust activity sheet: https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/assets/documents/BBCT_Kids_Activity_7-10_how_bees_see.pdf

Learn why wildflowers are important to bees, using this Bumblebee Conservation Trust worksheet: https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/BBCT_Kids_Activity_7-10_Wildflowers_v4.pdf

Using this knowledge, children could plant from seeds, various flowers and wild meadow flowers in their outdoor spaces. This could help children to learn about how plants grow and what they need to survive.

Learn about where wild bees live and how they hibernate, using this Bumblebee Conservation Trust worksheet: https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/assets/documents/BBCT_Kids_Activity_7-10_nests.pdf

Learn about the evolution of the bumblebee from the video on the Bumblebee Conservation trust Learning Zone: <https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/learning-zone/>

Use the Buglife Schools resource pack and education pack to enhance their knowledge about bees:

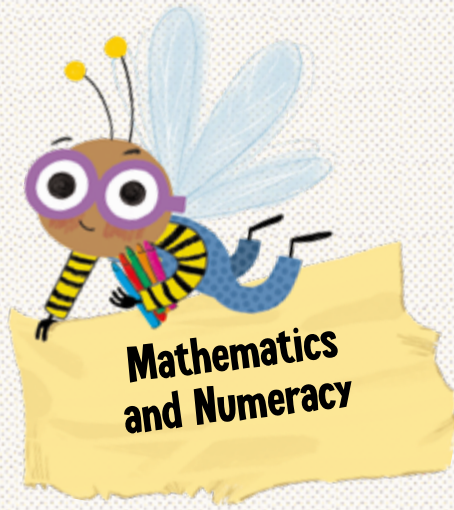
<https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2023/01/Resource-Pack-for-Primary-Schools-v6.pdf>

<https://cdn.buglife.org.uk/2023/01/National-Education-Pack-v8.pdf>

Learn about the features of plants and what they need to survive. They could label the parts of a plant and explore their life cycles, as well as conduct investigations exploring how plants adapt to their environments.

Explore the flowers that have made different jars of honey via use of pollen charts which detail the link between the colour of the honey and the dominant plant consumed by the bees.

Learn about the interconnections between species through a focus on food chains and the consequences that arise when part of the food chain is removed.



Foundation Stage / Key Stage One

Children could:

Use 'Beebots' to help Persephone locate the flowers on a simple grid. This would help children to learn the language of direction, movement and position.

Learn about the seasons and months of the year in relation to the life cycles of bees / other minibeasts or plant cycles.

Explore shape and pattern in nature, as well as focusing on 2d / 3d shapes relevant to bees and other minibeasts (e.g., the hexagonal shape of honeycomb).

Key Stage Two

Children could:

Research the different seasonal tree /grass/ flower pollinators that support bee populations across the UK. They could create graphs to determine which months are best for bees in terms of pollination. Or they could look at exploring and comparing the productivity of different pollinators within the UK.

Create models of bees and minibeasts using 3d nets.

Use coordinates to locate bees, flower etc on maps.



Foundation Stage / Key Stage One

Children could:

Explore the physical features of their locality and conduct observations/audits of what minibeasts live in/around / visit their school grounds.

Record their observations using block graphs, tables, Carroll diagrams etc, as well as learn about what changes they could make to attract more wildlife into their outdoor spaces.

Key Stage Two

Children could:

Hold debates and write to their local MP about the impact of global warming and the loss of species within their environment.

Learn about the work of naturalists such as David Attenborough and the work that they are doing in the campaign against climate change.

Learn about the changes being made by industries in the battle against climate change. For example, builders using bee-friendly bricks, farmers leaving wildflower meadows, no mow May in local councils etc.

Learn about / take part in species recovery projects in the UK, such as Natur am byth! (Wales) <https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/what-we-do/our-projects/nature-projects/natur-am-byth/?lang=en>

Back from the Brink (England) <https://naturebftb.co.uk/>

and Species on the Edge (Scotland): <https://www.nature.scot/scotlands-biodiversity/species-edge-sote/species-edge-about-programme>



Foundation Stage / Key Stage One

Children could:

Learn about bees and other minibeasts in order to create junk box models, paintings, collages (out of recyclable materials), clay sculptures, sketches etc of them to display.

Explore the movement of these creatures in their dance and music lessons (e.g., via learning the bees waggle dance, creating an expressive musical piece etc). They could also perform their dances to parents/carers.

Make decorations for their garden gala using only junk materials, thereby encouraging the children to reflect on the different and multiple uses of everyday rubbish.

Key Stage Two

Children could:

Learn about famous artists specialising in creating recycled art, such as Michelle Reader and Leo Sewell. They could then design and create their own recycled art inspired by the story of *The Bee Who Loved Words*.

Write song lyrics and compose music that has an environmental message that they could then share with the wider school community.

Develop their design skills by finding ways to upcycle old furniture items etc into flower beds and wildlife havens.



Foundation Stage / Key Stage One

Children could:

Be encouraged to go on litter picks in their school / local community, as well as receiving a talk from their local authority's recycling team.

Learn about recycling through sorting activities using hoops and rubbish collated from around the school.

Be encouraged to find ways of reducing their wastage of plastics and paper within the classroom and at home (e.g., not ordering milk bottles into school in individual cartons, ensuring the use of reusable containers for holding food items etc).

Key Stage Two

Children could:

Be challenged to answer the question 'Where does my rubbish end up?' as well as exploring their carbon footprint. What practical decisions could they make to reduce their waste and carbon footprint?

Visit their local recycling centre to find out more about the work being done within their community to support the environment.

Further activities:

Hold assemblies and celebratory events for World Earth Day and World Bee Day. Children could be tasked with creating and facilitating activities/presentations throughout these days and other environmental awareness days, in order to encourage reflection and activism within their school community towards caring for wild species.

BEE more Persephone, and help save the bees!

The ideas in this pack were generated by teachers!
Many thanks to Francesca Roberts and Bryony Kite.

We would love to see examples of how you use *The Bee Who Loved Words* as an inspiration for the activities in this pack!

Please share with Helen Docherty on:

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www.helendocherty.com

And with Puffin Schools on 📘 @PuffinSchools

