
词汇: *bees and wildlife* 蜜蜂与野生动植物

How do you feel about bees? Do you get irritated when they **buzz** around you and do you fear their mission is just to **sting** you? Love them or loathe them, these little **insects** are extremely important creatures, and without them we might starve.

Bees deserve some respect – they give us honey, and they play their part either **pollinating** the many vegetables and fruits we eat directly or pollinating the food for the animals that we then consume. In fact, they are the world’s most important **pollinators**. That’s not all – a study by the University of Reading in the UK, found bees and other pollinating insects have a global economic value of around £120bn (\$150bn) and contribute around £690m (\$850m) to the UK economy every year.

So, bees are worth protecting, and although a small number of bee **species** are vital for crops such as **oilseed rape**, apples and strawberries, experts say we should be taking care of all our bees. Researchers say **conservation** efforts should be aimed at a wide number of species – even those that currently contribute little to crop pollination – in order to maintain **biodiversity** and ensure future food security.

Unfortunately, in recent times, bee populations have been declining due to **pesticides**, **parasites**, disease and **habitat loss**. It’s something we should be worried about because, as Gill Perkins, chief executive of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, told BBC Future website: “They provide a whole **ecosystem** service.” The recent lockdowns caused by the coronavirus pandemic seem to have given bee populations a little boost because they faced less human disturbance, traffic and polluting fumes.

Conservationists hope, going forward, people will appreciate bees more and encourage them to **thrive** as they reconnect with **nature**. Gill Perkins says, “They are beginning to realise how their mental health and wellbeing is supported by nature – particularly by **bumblebees**, which are so iconic and beautiful and buzzy.” So, it really seems time to **give bees a second chance**.

词汇表

buzz	嗡嗡地叫
sting	叮, 蜇
insect	昆虫
pollinate	给(植物)传授花粉
pollinator	传粉昆虫
species	物种
oilseed rape	欧洲油菜
conservation	(对动植物的)保护
biodiversity	生物多样性
pesticide	农药, 杀虫剂
parasite	寄生生物
habitat loss	栖息地流失
ecosystem	生态系统
thrive	繁衍生息, 茁壮成长
nature	自然
bumblebee	大黄蜂
give (something or someone) a second chance	再给(某物或人)一次机会

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What do bees do to the fruits and vegetables we eat?
2. How much global economic value are pollinating insects thought to have?
3. What reasons have contributed to the decline in bee populations?
4. True or false? *Gill Perkins says reconnecting with nature helps improve the mental health of bumblebees.*
5. How many bee species are responsible for pollinating crops like oilseed rape?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. A rare _____ of bird has been found in the Amazon rainforest.

parasites	species	biodiversity	nature
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2. A _____ project has helped increase the elephant population in Africa.

conservationist	conservational	conservation	conserve
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3. This plant _____ in shady areas so should be perfect for your garden.

thrives	pollinates	ecosystem	parasites
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4. I was going to dump my boyfriend but decided to _____.

give him a seconds chance	gave him a second chance
given him a second chances	give him a second chance

5. Since the farmer sprayed _____ on his crops, people nearby have been complaining of breathing difficulties.

parasites	pesticides	oilseed rape	pollinators
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What do bees do to the fruits and vegetables we eat?

They pollinate them.

2. How much global economic value are pollinating insects thought to have?

A study by the University of Reading in the UK, found bees and other pollinating insects have a global economic value of around £120bn (\$150bn).

3. What reasons have contributed to the decline in bee populations?

In recent times, bee populations have been declining due to pesticides, parasites, disease and habitat loss.

4. True or false? *Gill Perkins says reconnecting with nature helps improve the mental health of bumblebees.*

False. She said people are beginning to realise how their mental health and wellbeing is supported by nature.

5. How many bee species are responsible for pollinating crops like oilseed rape?

Only a small number of bee species are vital for crops such as oilseed rape, apples and strawberries.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. A rare **species** of bird has been found in the Amazon rainforest.

2. A **conservation** project has helped increase the elephant population in Africa.

3. This plant **thrives** in shady areas so should be perfect for your garden.

4. I was going to dump my boyfriend but decided to **give him a second chance**.

5. Since the farmer sprayed **pesticides** on his crops, people nearby have been complaining of breathing difficulties.