

Busy bees (bumblebee)



The themes for this summer's crafts for Shaw House are its gardens and nature. You'd expect to see busy bees in Shaw House's gardens, especially around the lavender, so today's simple craft is to make a bumblebee from materials you'll probably have around the house.

To make a bumblebee, you will need: cardboard roll, yellow and black paint, paintbrush, scissors, three black pipe cleaners, stapler, glue stick or glue dots, newspaper or magazine or comic, sticky tape, two wiggle eyes.

Instructions:

1. Take your cardboard roll. Paint it yellow on the outside. Leave to dry.
2. Gently flatten the cardboard roll. Fold in each end of the roll to make a blunt point. Staple one end.
3. At the other end of the cardboard roll insert a short length of pipe cleaner (about 5cm, which is about a quarter of a standard pipe cleaner) and staple in place with about 2-3cms protruding from the end. This is the stinger of the bee. Only queen and worker bees have a stinger, as a defence mechanism, but drone bees do not.
4. Paint on the black stripes of the bee on one side of the flattened roll – we painted on four, but you can paint as many or as few stripes as you wish. Leave to dry.
5. With the remaining half of the pipe cleaner used for the stinger, cut in half. Bend each section into a semi-circle and insert one each side of the staple at the front of the bee. These are the antennae.
6. With 2 standard-size pipe cleaners, cut in half and use three of the lengths as legs. Each length will be two legs. Secure to the base of the bee with glue and sticky tape. Bend the pipe cleaners into shape to make legs.
7. Now make the wings; bumblebees have four wings. Using a newspaper, magazine or comic, cut out two large teardrop shapes and two smaller teardrop shapes.
8. Glue one large and one small teardrop shape on each side of the top of the bee. If necessary, please leave to dry.
9. Stick on the wiggle eyes – you might need to use glue to attach them. If you wish, you can alter the angle of the stinger and antennae at this point.
10. Well done – your bee is ready to buzz!

Fun fact: There are many different types of bumblebee that live in this country. Common ones include the garden, buff-tailed, red-tailed, white-tailed and field bumblebee. See how many different bumblebees you can spot.