

Build a Bee

Materials

- Egg carton
- Pipe cleaners
- Markers or paint
- Scissors
- Pollinator field guides

How To

Start by cutting out a section of your egg carton for the bee's body. You will need a section that is 3 "eggs" long. Make sure to keep the egg holders attached together. These will represent the 3 segments of a bee's body: head, thorax (middle), and abdomen (end).



Next, get creative and add some color to your bee with markers or paint. Look for inspiration in the pollinator field guides to color your bee as realistically as possible. In our example here, we are modeling our bee after the common Eastern bumblebee (*Bombus impatiens*). Bees come in all colors though! Some are black and yellow, others are blue, green, or orange. Learn the name of the bee that you are modeling your craft bee after.



Next, let's add some legs! Bees, like all insects, have 6 legs attached to their thorax (middle body section). Wrap a pipe cleaner around the section of the egg carton between the head and the thorax and between the thorax and the abdomen. You can use these as anchors for your legs, or you can poke holes in the egg carton and thread the pipe cleaner legs through. Make sure to add a bend to each leg to mimic real life bees' legs.



Next, add your 2 antennae to the bee's head. These should also have a little bend to them.

Lastly, add your wings! Bees have 4 wings, so you'll need 4 small pipe cleaner pieces. Attach your wings to the wrapped pipe cleaner between the head and the thorax. You might need to add another wrapped pipe cleaner to keep everything together. This will add some extra fuzziness to your bee, which is perfect if you're creating a bumblebee!



If you're feeling extra creative, make a habitat for your bee out of other craft supplies!