



Spencer Hardy

MYTH: All bees have a queen



Some bees, like honeybees and bumblebees, have a social structure that includes a queen and her workers. But most other bees are solitary bees! Solitary bees don't live in colonies and they don't have a queen. Instead, their nests consist of just a single female bee who builds her nest and takes care of her babies without any help.



MYTH: All bees make honey.

2

Social bees, like honeybees and bumblebees, make honey because they need to store food to feed lots of workers! But solitary bees don't have any workers, so they don't need to store food.

3



MYTH: All bees live in big, round paper hives.

3

The big, round, paper nests that we see hanging from trees, bushes, or the eaves of buildings are actually social wasp nests! Wild bees live in a bunch of different nest types, depending on the species. Some of these nest types include hollow stems, holes in the ground, abandoned rodent burrows, or brush piles.

4



MYTH: Wasps are bees.

Wasps and bees both belong to a group called “Hymenoptera,” which are insects that have two pairs of wings and the females have stingers. But wasps are not bees! Wasps are mostly hairless and they are omnivores, while bees are fuzzy and are herbivores!



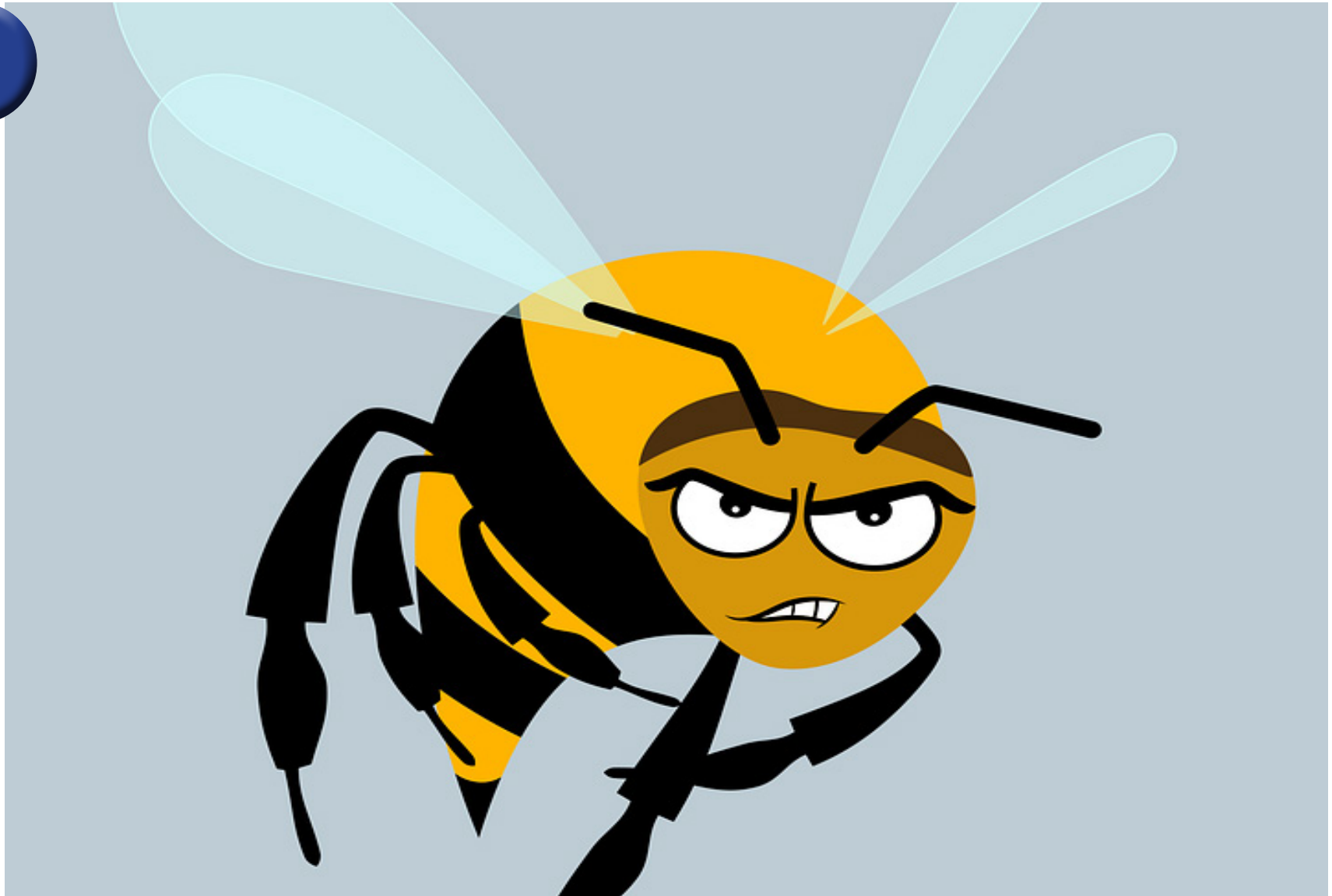
5



MYTH: All bees have stingers.

5

While all female bees have stingers, male bees do not! Stingers evolved from an egg laying device called an “ovipositor” which is why only females have them.



MYTH: Bees sting because they are mean.

6

The only time a bee will sting is when it feels threatened or thinks that its babies are in danger. When bees are visiting flowers or generally flying around, they are only interested in collecting food for their babies or getting back to their nests. So as long as you don't mess with them or their nests, they should leave you alone!

7



MYTH: All bees are yellow and black.

7

Bees come in many colors! Some bees are yellow and black, but others are blue, green, red, black, brown, white, orange, or purple!



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MYTH: Only bees pollinate flowers.

Bees are excellent pollinators, but there are lots of other animals that pollinate flowers! These animals include flies, wasps, butterflies, moths, hummingbirds, and bats.