Build a bee neighborhood!

Flowers to find. Homes to protect. A plan to create.



1 Meet the bees

Discover what different bees need.

2 Build a place

Choose tiles. Make a plan together.

3 Try a twist

Pick a surprise card. Make it better!

START WITH FLOWERS

Meet your bee neighbors

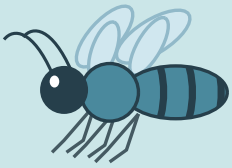
All these bees get food from flowers. Their nesting needs are different.

Bumblebee



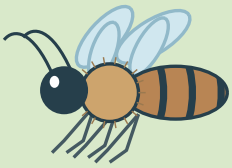
- Bumblebees live in colonies.
- They need undisturbed places to nest.

Mason bee



- Many use holes in wood or stems.
- They use mud to divide their nests.

Mining bee



- Many make their nests in the soil.
- Leave their nesting ground alone.

Honey bee



- Honey bees live together in colonies.
- Beekeepers care for managed hives.

Choose two bee neighbors. Tell your team what they might need.

YOUR TEAM IS IN CHARGE

Make room for bees!

Choose flower tiles, nesting places and a walking path. Arrange them together.

OUR TEAM NAME

START YOUR PATH HERE

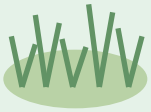
Can your team find room for...

- [ ] **Flowers at different times?**
  Use early, middle and late flower tiles.
- [ ] **Two kinds of nesting places?**
  Use the bee cards to help you choose.
- [ ] **A path for people?**
  Keep footsteps away from nesting places.

CUT. PLACE. MOVE. REPEAT.

Pick your pieces

Cut on the grid lines. Print this page and the board at the same size.

 EARLY BLOOMS	 EARLY BLOOMS	 EARLY BLOOMS	 MIDDLE BLOOMS	 MIDDLE BLOOMS
 MIDDLE BLOOMS	 LATE BLOOMS	 LATE BLOOMS	 LATE BLOOMS	 BARE SOIL
 BARE SOIL	 OLD STEMS	 OLD STEMS	 OLD WOOD	 QUIET CORNER
 WALKING PATH	 WALKING PATH	 WALKING PATH	 WALKING PATH	 MY OWN IDEA

What will your pieces stand for?

Flowers: bloom at different times where you live.

Nesting places: soil, old stems, wood and quiet spaces.

Your own idea: draw it, name it and explain it!

No scissors? Draw these ideas straight onto your board.

READY FOR A TWIST?

Oops! Now what?

Your leader gives your team one card. Change your paper plan, then tell us why.

1 The flowers finish!



Cover one flower tile. What could bloom next? Draw or rename a flower tile.

2 A new shortcut!



People walk through a nesting spot. Move the path or draw a sign to protect it.

3 A big cleanup!



Someone wants to remove old stems and wood. Which pieces would you keep for bees?

4 Spray every flower?



Insects are visiting. Should we spray? Ask an adult to help identify them before deciding.

5 Too much shade!



A flower patch gets less sun. Move it or choose a plant that likes shade.

6 A smaller space!



Cover eight board squares. Can you still fit flowers, nesting places and a path?

There is more than one good answer. Listen, test and try again!

LOOK WHAT WE MADE!

Tell your neighborhood story

Draw your favorite part. Then point to your picture and tell your team about it.

Draw here

Point. Tell. Celebrate.

1. Which bee could your plan help?
2. Where could it find food or a nesting place?
3. What did your team change after the surprise?



We built a bee neighborhood!

Choose a next adventure:

Draw a local flower. Watch from a safe path. Share our plan.

Your ready-to-go leader guide

45 minutes | Ages 7-12 | Teams of 3-5

For classrooms, 4-H clubs, Girl Scout troops and other youth groups.

GET READY

Each team: pages 2-4 and 6, pencils, optional coloring tools, scissors and reusable tape. Print pages 3 and 4 at the same scale (100% works). Cut ahead or use the no-cut option.
Leader: one set of page 5 cards. Page 1 is the invitation. No live bees or planting are needed.

RUN THE ADVENTURE

5 min	**Meet the bees**	Read page 2 aloud. Compare nesting needs.
3 min	**Make a team**	Share the finding, arranging and speaking roles.
12 min	**Build a place**	Use pages 3 and 4. Let everyone move a piece.
8 min	**Try a surprise**	Give one page 5 card. Teams revise their plans.
10 min	**Show and tell**	Each team explains two choices and one change.
7 min	**Draw and reflect**	Use page 6. Choose one next adventure.

MAKE IT FIT YOUR GROUP

Younger children: use two bee cards, read aloud and accept drawings or spoken answers. Older children: check locally native plants and bloom times before naming their flower tiles.

KEEP THE SCIENCE CLEAR

Tiles represent ideas, not measured land areas or a habitat recipe. Nest needs vary by species; not every hole or bare patch is suitable. Keep real occupied nests undisturbed. Managed hives need a beekeeper and do not replace native bee habitat. For real projects, get site permission and local guidance; choose suitable native plants. Observe insects before deciding on any treatment and avoid unnecessary pesticides.

LEADERS: SHARE A PAPER PLAN OR A DISCOVERY

buzzus@savethebeesusa.org

No children's names or faces are needed.

Bee facts: Illinois Extension

Nesting: Minnesota Extension

Local plants: Xerces Society

Explore Save The Bees USA programs

An independent Save The Bees USA activity. It does not confer an official club or Scout badge.