



MISSION INVERTEBRATE

THE ROYAL PARKS

HOW TO

MAKE A CONE BEE

There are about 270 species of bee in Britain, 250 of which are solitary bees. These include mining bees, flower bees and sweat bees. Solitary bees live on their own, not in groups like honeybees or bumblebees. They are fantastic pollinators and we think they deserve more attention! Here's how to make your very own solitary bee.

270
species of bee in Britain



Tawny mining bee



Large-headed resin bee

WHAT YOU NEED

- A tree cone (Alder works well but you could also use conifer cones for bigger bees).



- Two pieces of tissue paper (or white plastic bag) cut into an oval shape about twice the length of your cone (Alder cones are quite small).



- About 30cm of yellow or white wool, depending on the size of your cone.



Making your bee's wings

The tissue paper/bag will be your bee wings - bees have four wings



1 On a flat surface, lay your two pieces of tissue paper, one directly on top of the other, over the middle point of your wool.



2 Bring the two ends of the wool up and loosely tie a simple overhand knot around the middle of the tissue.



3 Pull really tight, then fluff out the wings. The wool will make up the yellow part of the bee's body markings on the cone.

TOP TIP
This can be tricky: Get someone to help hold the paper in place whilst you tie the knot.

Making your bee's body

Body markings vary between species - some bees have no stripes at all!



4 Hold the wings against the middle of the cone, and wind one half of the wool around the back (thin end) of the cone. Slot the end of the wool in between some cone scales to secure it.



5 Wrap fairly tightly to encourage the wool to slot in between the cone scales, but not too tight or the wool will disappear into the gaps.



6 Now wrap the other half of the wool around the cone in front of the wings, leaving a wool-free bit at the front for the face.

FINISHING TOUCH
Remember to leave some wool at the front to hang your bee up with and make them able to 'fly'



I'm a solitary bee!

*Obviously you can make more than one bee if you'd like