

LET'S TALK ABOUT

# WHERE BEES LIVE?



BBN

1



## MAN-MADE HIVES

A common type of bee home is a man-made box used by beekeepers. The most common is the Langstroth hive developed in 1851. This hive design features honeycomb sheets held in removable wooden frames.



2



## HIVE NESTS

Honey bees can build their own hive nests and in warmer climates they may occasionally build exposed hanging nests. The nest is composed of multiple honeycombs with a single entrance facing downward. The bees coat the cavity walls with a thin layer of hardened plant resin called propolis.

3



## HOLLOW TREES

It was common to find honey bee hives in a hollow tree. Some rural beekeepers cut out the section of log where the nest is located, mount it on a base and add a roof and call it a "bee gum". Natural tree or log beehives might live in the wild for years and years, however pests like mites have wiped out most of the feral bee population.

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## UNDERGROUND

70% of bee species live underground, and the large majority are small and solitary. Miner bees are solitary bees that create underground galleries, with queens living individually and raising their own young. They do not form hives, but several females may nest in the same area.

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## WOOD TUNNELS

The solitary Carpenter bees burrow into hard plant material such as dead wood or bamboo and make cells along the tunnel length. In solitary nesting, the founding bee forages, builds cells, lays the eggs, and guards.

6



## BRICKS

The solitary Masonry bees are best known and named for their propensity to attack the old or poorly maintained mortar or cement between the bricks of our homes. They create or make use of existing horizontal, cylindrical holes in which they complete their life-cycle.

The World Bee Project



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