



Nalderun Education Aboriginal Corporation Curriculum Resource

Resource Title	Australian native bees
Aboriginal Protocols	
Person	Aunty Julie McHale
Mob Group/Country	Trawlwoolway
Content Country	
Curriculum Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living things have structural features and adaptations that help them to survive in their environment VCSSU074
Year Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-school, P - 2, 7 - 8, 3 - 4, 9 - 10, 5 - 6, VCE 11 - 12
Pedagogies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Links
Ways of Assessing	
First Nations Education Academics that back your reasons	
Any other info / comments	



BLUE-BANDED BEE



A group of blue banded bees (*Amegilla*) coming in to roost in the evening.



THE STINGLESS BEE

These stingless bees build a tiny resin tunnel as their nest entrance. These three bees are guarding their nest entrance.



CARPENTER BEE

The 24mm Great Carpenter Bees are the largest bees in Australia! They cut nest burrows in soft timber such as dead limbs of the mango tree.



The **males** of the Great Carpenter Bee have quite different colouring. They are covered with soft golden fur.



Metallic carpenter Bee

A **female** metallic green carpenter bee, (*Xylocopa (Lestis)*), that nests in the flower spike of a grass tree.



Reed Bee

Perched on their lantana stem home which is just 6 mm wide, these tiny, elongated bees are Australia's least known social bees!



Neon Cuckoo Bee

The cuckoo bees are stunningly beautiful but these bees lead a life of deceit! They behave like cuckoo birds -- laying their eggs in the nests of other bees.

The Neon Cuckoo Bee, *Thyreus nitidulus*, with glittering metallic blue spots, lays its eggs in the nests of Blue Banded Bees.



Domino Cuckoo Bee

This closely related bee with white patches of fur, the Domino Cuckoo Bee *Thyreus lugubris*, preys on the nests of Teddy Bear Bees.



Teddy Bear Bee

Teddy bear bees are solitary bees. Each female builds an individual nest for herself in a small burrow in the soil. However, quite a few teddy bear bees may build nests close together in a sheltered location such as in an eroded creek bank or underneath a house.



Burrowing Bees

The crowded lives of these bold native bees, which nest by the thousands in arid clay pans in Western Australia, are attracting international scientific interest.



Leaf Cutter Bee

The amazing handiwork of the leafcutter bees makes them one of the most fascinating bees in Australia! The leafcutter bee snips a neat circle or oval from a leaf. She will use these leaf pieces to weave tiny cradles for her eggs inside her nest burrow.



Fire-tailed Resin Bee

These bees build residences made out of resin. Ranging in size from small to large and coloured red, orange or black, these attractive bees may be in your backyard! Resin bees build nests in narrow holes in timber. This resin bee is sealing her nest entrance. Some resin bees use pure resin to seal their nest entrances. This bee is mixing chewed leaf material into her resin seal.



The World's Smallest Bee (*Quasihesma*)

Less than 2 mm long, this bee from Cape York Peninsula, Queensland, is not much larger than the head of a pin!



***Coelioxys* bee**

Coelioxys bees are cuckoo bees (or 'cleptoparasites') which lay their eggs inside the nests of other types of bees in a similar way as cuckoo birds lay eggs in the nests of other types of birds.

These bees lay their eggs in the nests of leafcutter bees just as The Neon Cuckoo Bee lays its eggs in the nests of Blue Banded Bees.

The *Coelioxys* bee enters the nest of a leafcutter bee and uses its long tapering abdomen to insert eggs in between the layers of leaf surrounding the leafcutter bee brood cell, into the pollen mass inside. The eggs hatch into *Coelioxys* larvae which kill the leafcutter bee young and also eat the food stored for them.

There are five species of *Coelioxys* described in Australia -- in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Victoria.



***Homalictus* bees**

With glints of aqua blue, golden green and orange, these *Homalictus* bees make a stunning sight! Just 5 mm long, these bees are tiny living gems.



The Green and Gold *Nomia*

With their golden bands of fur and long antennae, these males form extraordinary clusters at night