




Some differences between social bees and solitary bees

			
	<i>Honey bees</i>	<i>Solitary Bees</i>	<i>Bumblebees</i>
<i>Species in UK</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Over 250</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Honey</i>	<i>Honey bees produce honey for food and it is also stored for winter. It is all they eat.</i>	<i>Solitary bees do not produce honey.</i>	<i>Bumblebees produce small amounts of honey like substance but it is not stored for winter consumption as the queen hibernates and all the other bumblebees have died.</i>
<i>Nests</i>	<i>Build large permanent nests.</i>	<i>Do not build permanent nests and normally use small holes in the ground, walls or trees.</i>	<i>Live in nests in the ground or in earth banks</i>



	<i>Honey bees</i>	<i>Solitary Bees</i>	<i>Bumblebees</i>
<i>Size of colony</i>	<i>At the height of summer a hive can contain ~50,000 bees</i>	<i>A solitary bee colony contains 40 eggs.</i>	<i>Nest has 50-400 bees</i>
<i>Swarming</i>	<i>Honey bees swarm normally during May and June and it's how they increase the general honey bee population</i>	<i>Solitary bees do not swarm.</i>	<i>Bumblebees do not swarm.</i>
<i>Stings</i>	<i>Female worker bees will sting if they feel under threat or when they think the hive is being attacked. Honey bees normally die when they sting</i>	<i>Some species of solitary bee do not have a sting and the sting of those who do is far less severe than honey bee stings. Solitary bees are very rarely aggressive and don't die if they sting</i>	<i>Only sting if aggravated and do not die afterwards</i>
<i>Lifespan</i>	<i>A queen can live for 3-5 years, a worker ~40 days and a drone ~90 days.</i>	<i>Queen lives for a year, others only for a few months.</i>	<i>Queen lives for a year others only live for a few months.</i>

