

# Busy Bee Bodies

Bees are very interesting insects. There are many species of bees. However, bees all share similar parts. Like all insects, have three main sections: the head, the thorax, and the abdomen.

## The Head

Bees have heads just like you. However, the bee's head has some unique body parts that make it very different from human heads. Bees have two sets of eyes. One set is called the simple eyes. These eyes are very small. The other eyes are called compound eyes. These are large and are made up of many hexagon shapes.

### Looking Good Bees!

Bees can see less color than humans, but their special eyes let them see something humans can't. Bees can see a special kind of light called ultraviolet light. This helps them find nectar easier.



Closeup of a bee's compound eyes



Wasp's head with mandibles and antennae visible

Also on the head is the bee's mouth. Their mouth is like many insect mouths. They have long parts in the front called mandibles that work almost like arms to cut food and push it into the mouth. They also have big antennae that work like ears.

Bees have a long tongue-like body part called a proboscis. They use this like a straw to suck up nectar from the flowers. Butterflies also have this body part. Inside the bee's head, there are many parts including the brain. They



Photo of a proboscis on a dead bee

# Thorax

The thorax is the middle section of the bee. Inside the thorax are some very important organs including the air sacs and wing muscles. The wings and legs are joined to the body at the thorax. Bees have forewings and hindwings.



Bee colony with bee wings on display

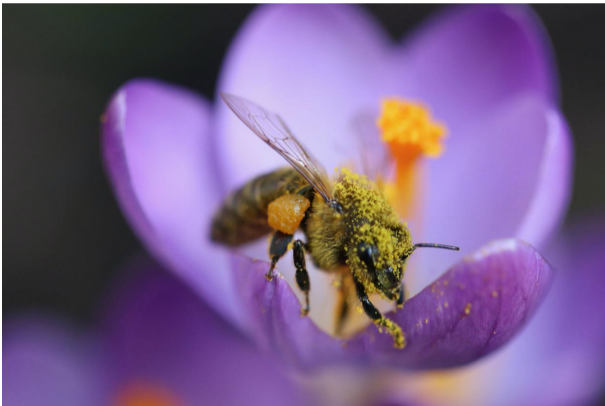
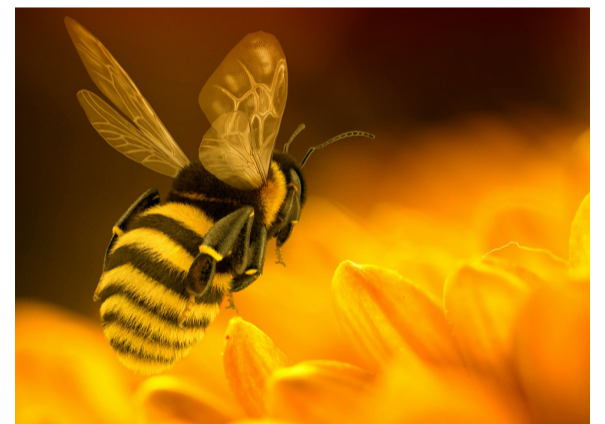


Photo of bee with pollen basket visible

They have six legs. The front legs are called forelegs. They have a little hook on them that they use to help them clean their antenna. They have middle legs and back legs. The back legs, called the hindlegs, have pollen baskets on them. This is where most of the pollen collects when they visit the flower.

# Abdomen

The abdomen is the back part of the bee. The bees actually breathe through their butts using spiracles. This is what gives bees their stripes on the back of their body. Bees have a honey stomach. This is where they keep the nectar they collect until they get back to the hive.



Bee flying with abdomen clearly visible



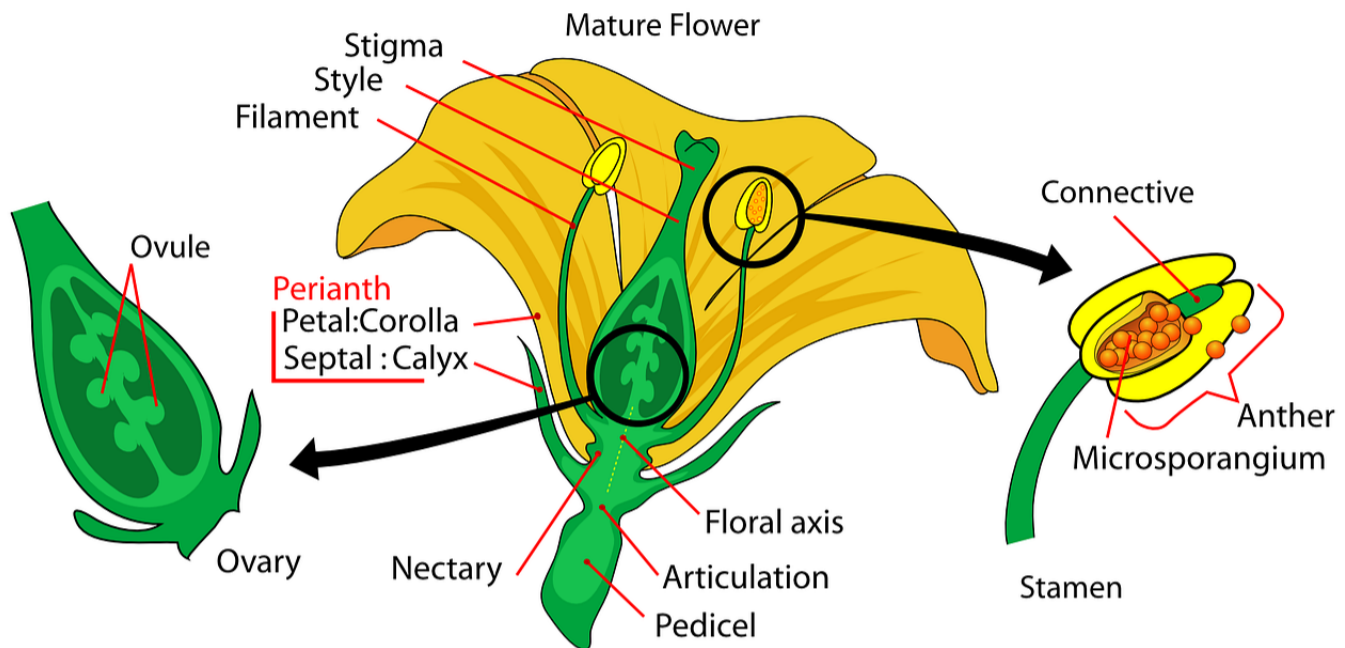
Photo of bee hanging upside down

Not all bees have stingers. The bees that do have stingers keep them in their abdomen. They have a poison sac which is what they release if they sting. The bee's heart and stomach are also in the abdomen. They also store waste in their rectum and poop from there as well.

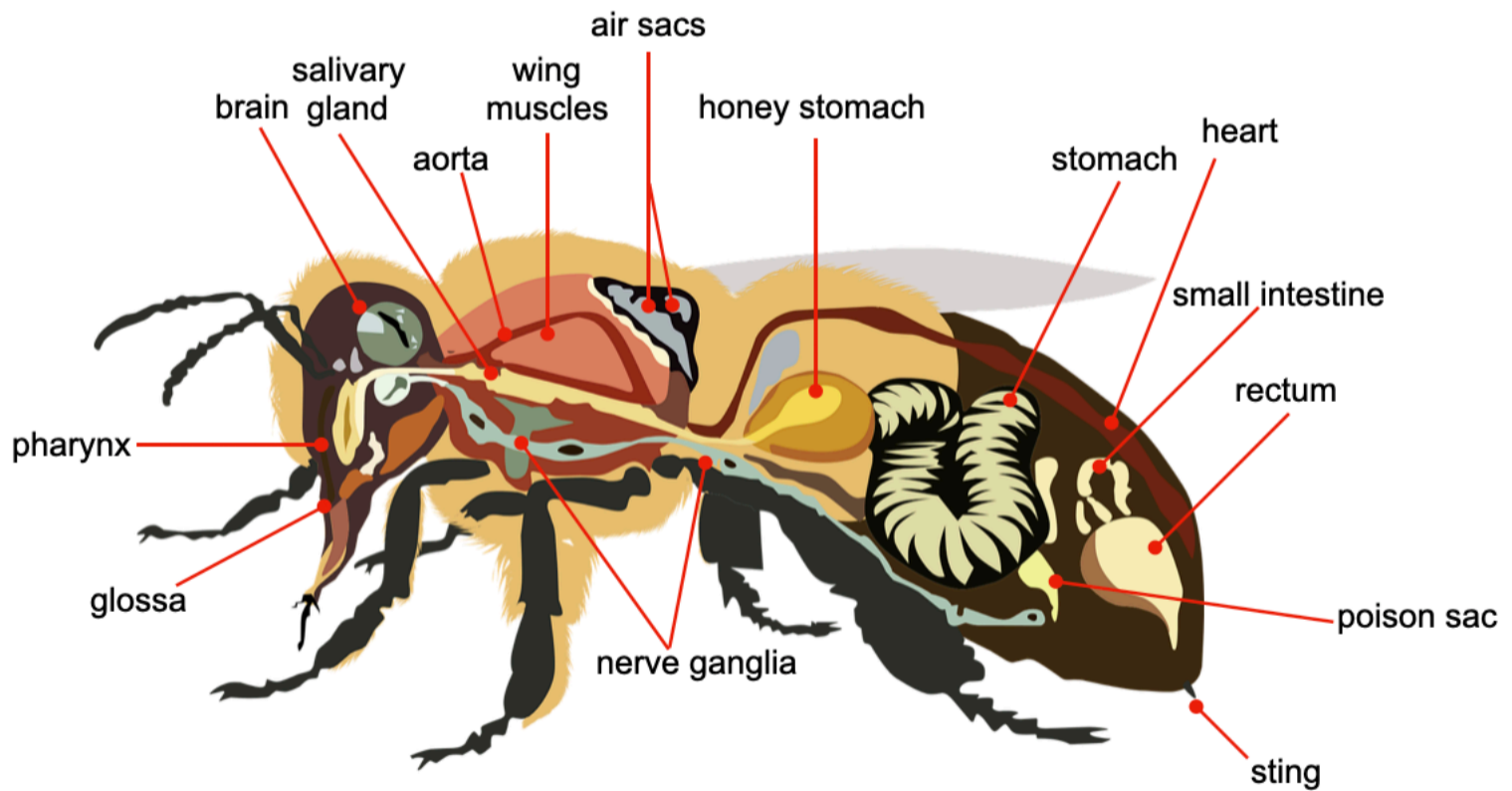
All the body parts of the bee work together to help it keep busy buzzing around from flower to flower or tending larvae in the hive. Without the important parts of their body, bees would not be able to do their important work.

## Inside Nature

### Parts of a Flower



### Parts of a Bee



How are bees and flowers different?

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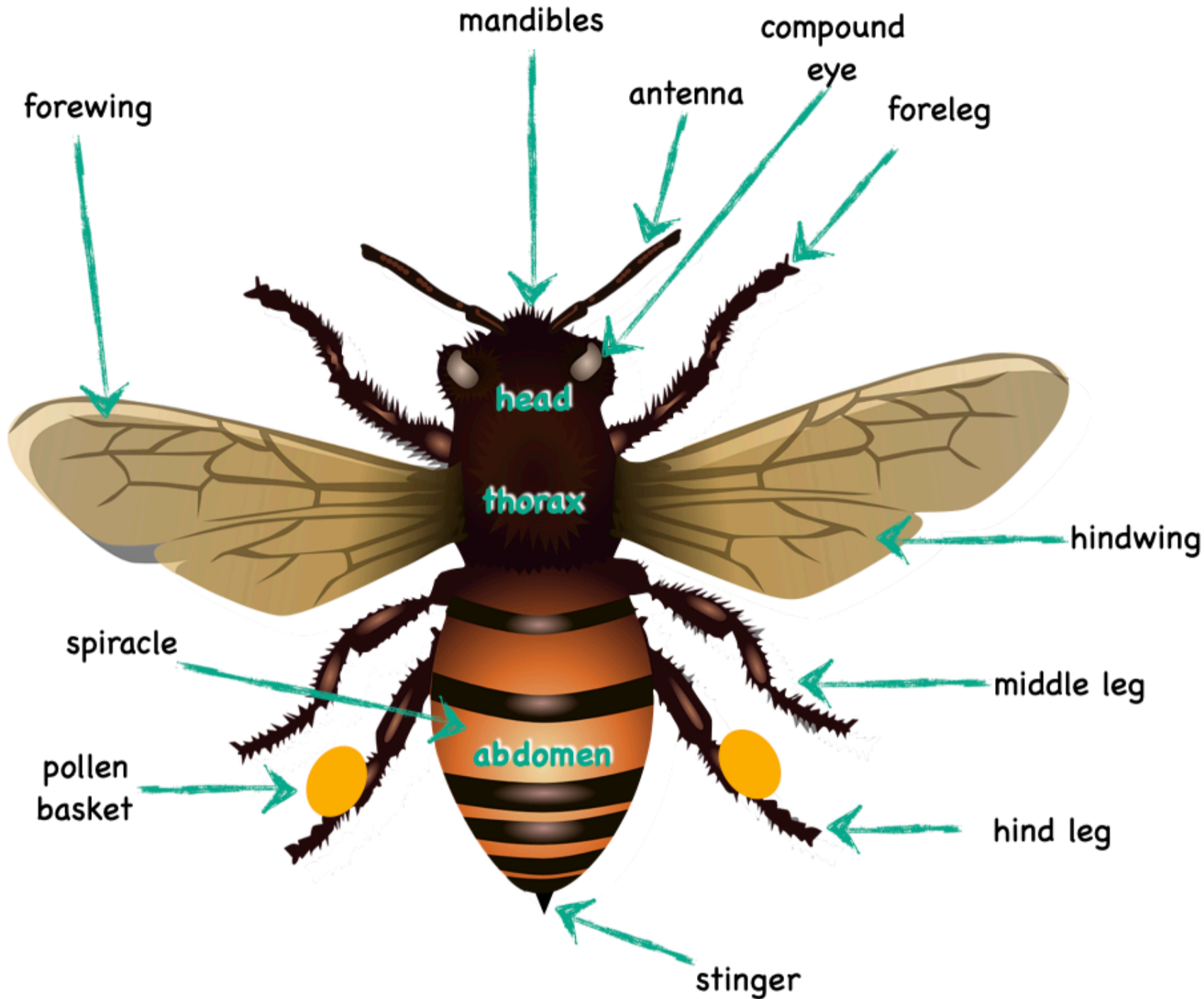
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## Parts of a Bee



What parts do bees and humans have in common?

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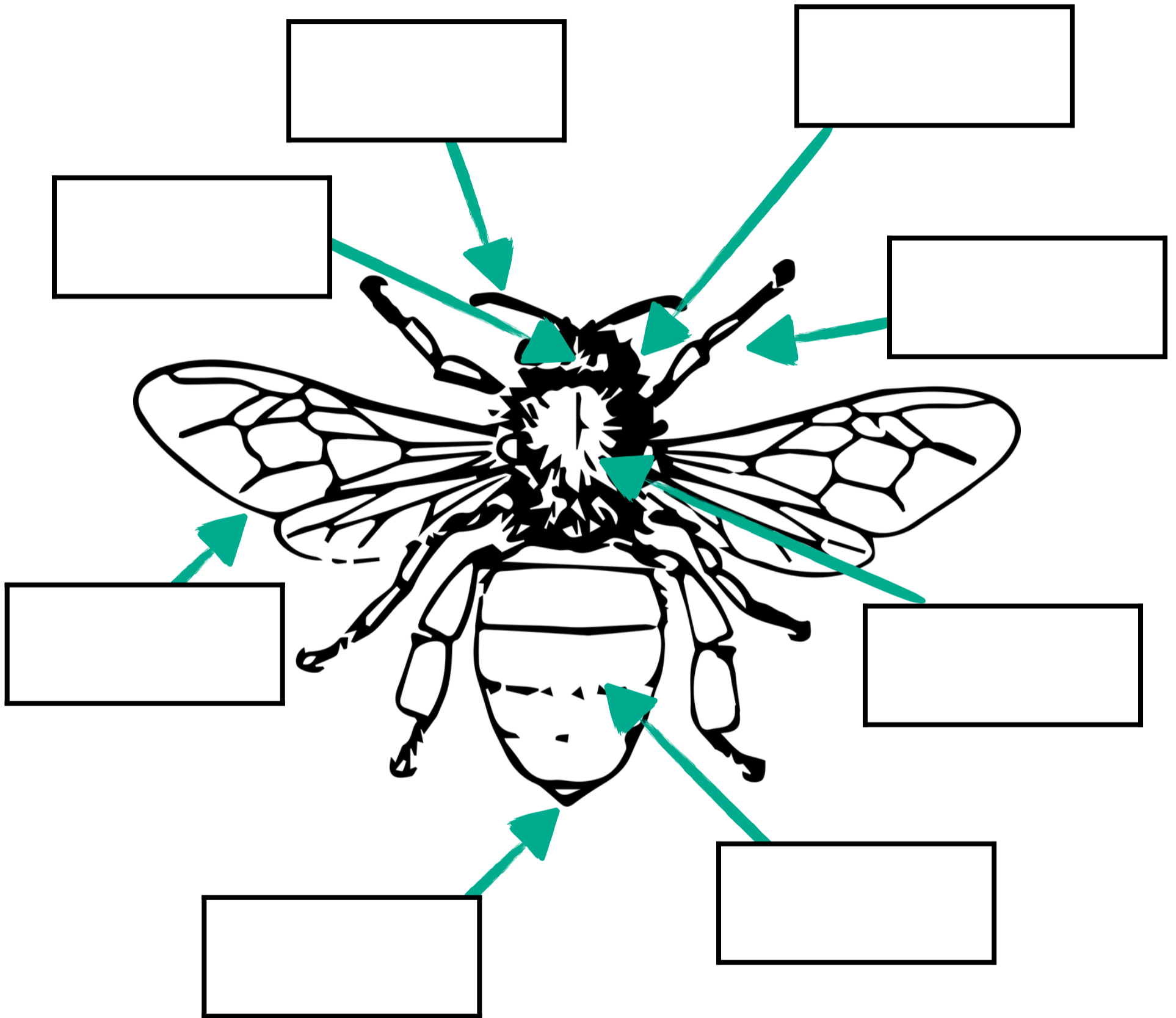
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Label the parts of the bee.



✂	abdomen	antenna	leg	thorax
	stinger	eye	head	wing

# a Messy Classroom

## Text Features

Circle all of the text features that are in the text, "Busy Bee Bodies."

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glossary

What text features were the most helpful to help you understand the text? Are there any that you wish were included that weren't?

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