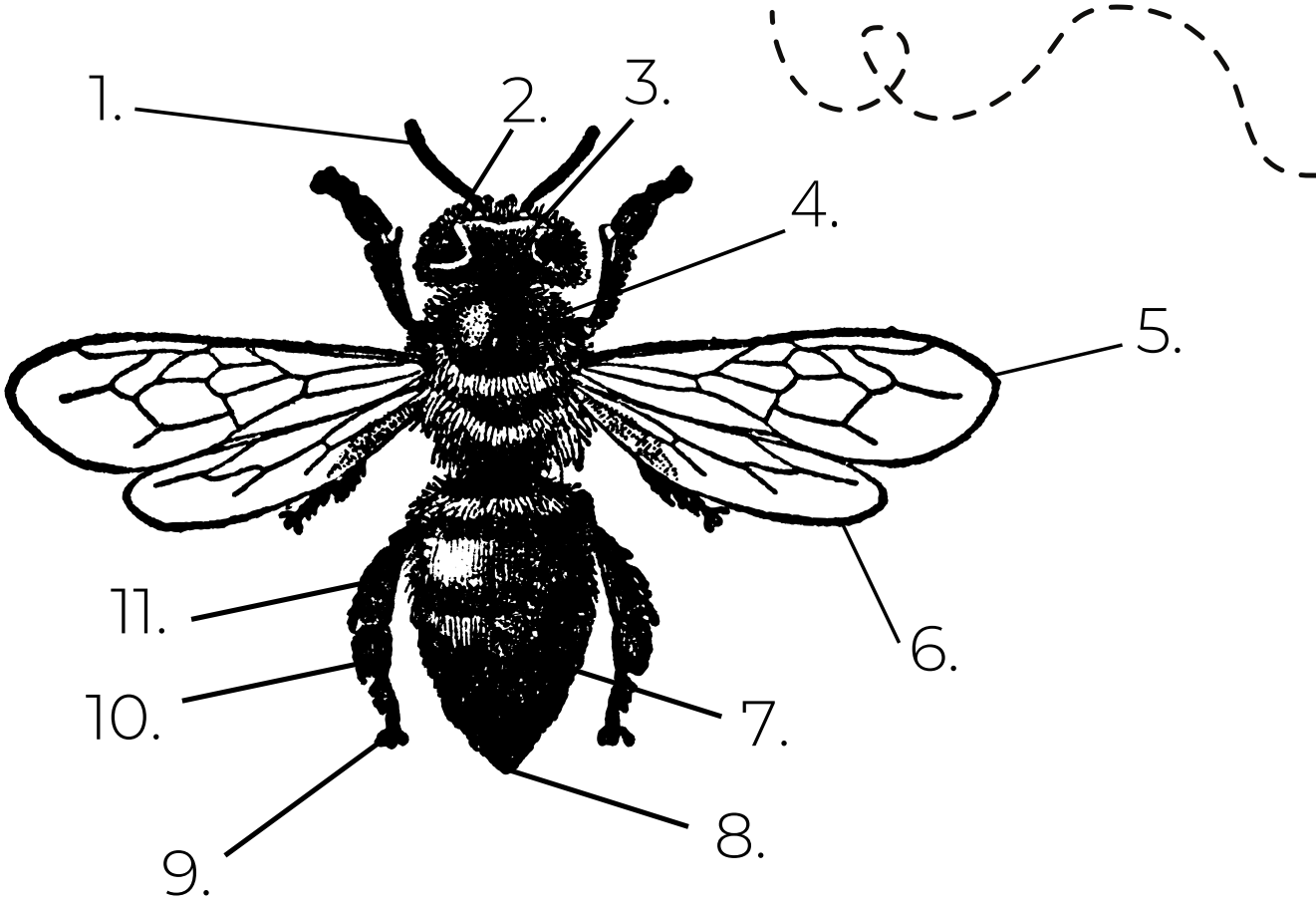
The Bee



1.Antenna: Contains thousands of tiny sensors that detect smell
2.Compound Eye: Used for general distance sight
3.Ocellus: Three simple eyes used for low light conditions in the hive
4.Thorax: segment between head and abdomen where wings attach
5.Forewing, 6.Hindwing } 2-part wings that hook together in flight, but separate when the bee is at rest
7.Abdomen: contains all organs, wax glands, and the stinger
8.Stinger: Only present on worker and queen bees
9. Tarsal Claw: at the end of the leg and responsible for clasping onto rougher surfaces.
10. Tibia, 11. Femur } Three pairs of legs with six segments each; used for walking and packing pollen

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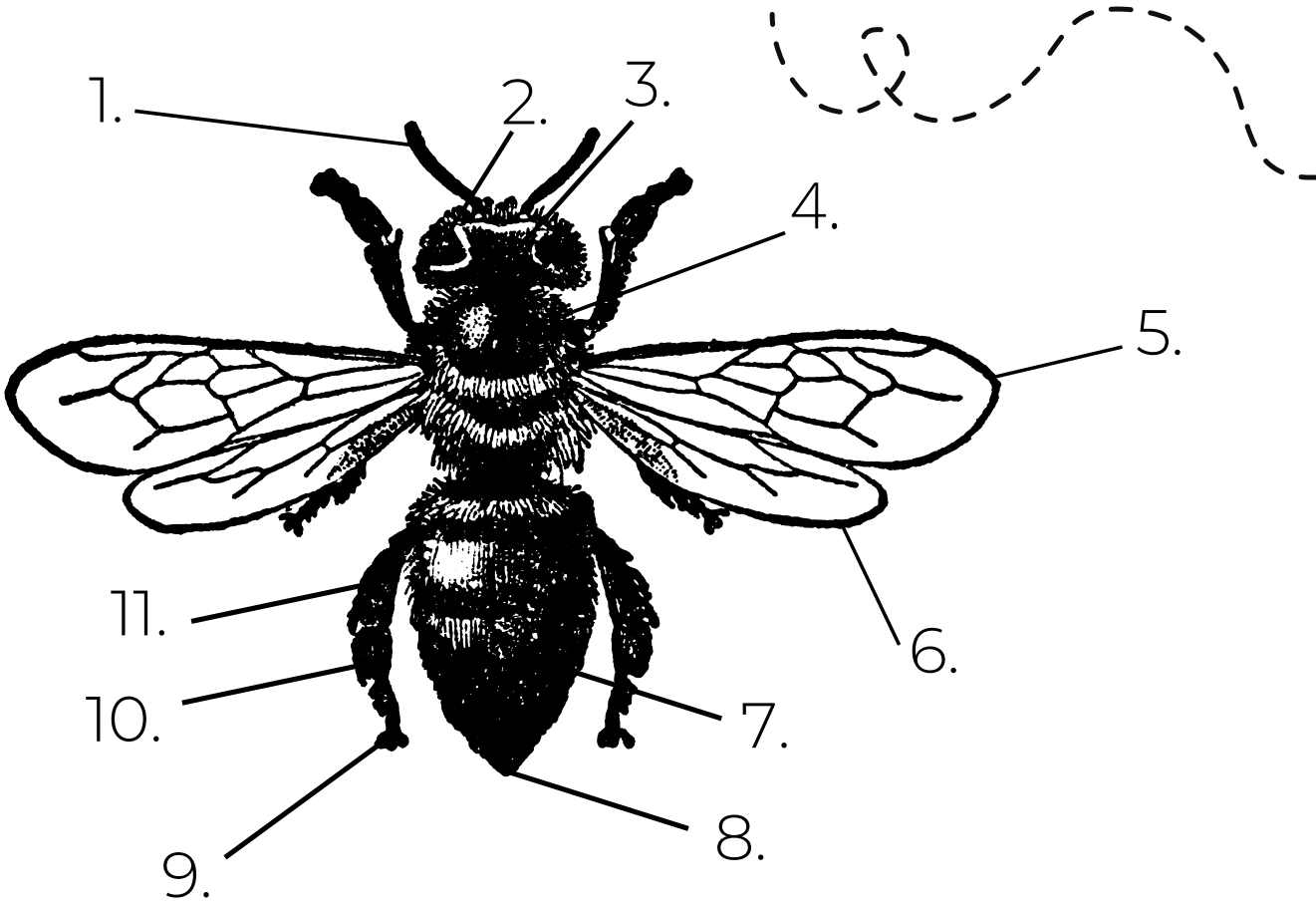

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6.	

California Native Bees!

Bees are extremely important indicators that determine the health of the environment. They are a key species vital for the continued existence of our wild lands, for sustainable crop pollination and they serve as an important food resource for a variety of species.

Many people can easily recognize the non-native species of the European honey bee. However, many are unaware of the 1600 species of native bees found in California. Honey bees are known for living in hives and their social behavior, in contrast, most native bees are solitary and do not make honey!

Native bees come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors! They also differ in seasons they appear, habitats and flowers they prefer.
Female bees are hardworking, they mate, make nests, collect pollen, and lay eggs. Males live to mate. Males will only pollinate when visiting flowers for nectar to fuel flight.

Look for the Bees below in your garden at home!

Yellow Faced Bumble Bee,
Bombus vonesenskii

Bumble bees are one of the easier bees to recognize. They have a bright yellow facial hair, a hairy and rather chunky body. They also have yellow bands on their back and abdomen. The bumble bee moves relatively slow among flowers.

California Native Bees!

Sweat bee,
Halictus spp.

This group of bees is named after its tendency to land on humans and lap up sweat for moisture and salt. They are medium to small in size. They are dark bees with pale hair bands at the end of each segment. This gives them a striped appearance. They nest in soil and in annual colonies.

Mining bees,
Andrena spp.

This group of bees merges from their soil nests in the spring. They are medium to tiny bees, many have metallic coloring. They are characterized grooves that run down between the their compound eyes on their faces.

Leafcutter bee,
Megachile spp

This group of bees are relatively slow fliers, with thick heads. They have triangular shaped abdomens. They carry pollen on the underside of their abdomen. These bees use leaves to partition their nests between eggs. They will usually nest in wood.

California Native Bees!

Ultra green sweat bee,
Agapostemon texanum

This group of bees have distinct coloration. The females of this species are metallic green, the males have a metallic green head and have a striped abdomen. They nest in soil, and are commonly found on flowers in the daisy family (Asteraceae).

Valley carpenter bee,
Xylocopa varipuncta

This group of bees get their name because they carve nests out of decaying wood. The females are large, shiny and black. The males are commonly called "Teddy Bear Bees" because of their golden and hairy appearance. They also cannot sting!

Mason bee,
Osmia

This group of bees get their name because they use mud to create walls between egg chambers, Their sizes vary and they come in different colors; from green to metallic blue. They have round heads, abdomens, and thoraxes. They also carry pollen on the underside of their abdomens. Most species nest in preexisting wood cavities.

Special thanks to the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden for providing all of this helpful information!