

# Bumblebees Have Smelly Feet

## Learning activities:

### **Discussion before reading:**

- What does the title and picture on the front cover tell you about what's inside the book?
- What do you already know about bumblebees?
- What do you think bumblebees do all day?

### **Discover:**

- Discover what other pollinating insects there are that help flowers, trees, and food crops to grow.
- New Zealand has four types (species) of bumblebee. Research to discover how many types of bumblebees there are in the United Kingdom, which is where our four New Zealand bumblebee types came from.
- Discover and discuss why mainland Australia does not have bumblebees.

### **Write:**

- Brainstorm some words that describe what our planet earth might look like if there were no pollinating insects, like bumblebees, to help grow flowers, trees and food crops.
- Write a letter to a family member or friend telling them what you have learnt about the super duper, power-packed, awesome-ability bumblebee!
- Write a poem about bumblebees.
- How many new words can you make up from the title, Bumblebees have smelly feet?

### **Art:**

- Design a poster to inform how people can "Help the Bumblebee!" See the 'You Can Help' section on page 23.
- Design and draw an underground home. If you lived in an underground hidey-hole home, how would you get in and out? What would the inside look like? How big or small would it be?
- Draw or paint some flowers adding colours and patterns that direct pollinating insects, like the bumblebee, to the flower's pollen for pollination.

### **Puzzle:**

- Solve the buzz fact: Nectar for 1.4.1.8.2.3. and pollen for 2.8.6.9.5.25. Bumblebees need 10.6.5.25!

|       |       |       |        |        |        |        |        |        |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 = e | 4 = n | 7 = m | 10 = b | 13 = u | 16 = d | 19 = i | 22 = s | 25 = h |
| 2 = g | 5 = t | 8 = r | 11 = l | 14 = p | 17 = x | 20 = f | 23 = c | 26 = k |
| 3 = y | 6 = o | 9 = w | 12 = q | 15 = a | 18 = j | 21 = z | 24 = v |        |

- Make up your own alphabetical number puzzle using one of the buzz facts from inside the book.

### **Outdoors:**

- Observe and record: Plant a patch of wildflower seeds, flowers or herbs (basil, celery, dill, fennel, chives) or find an established flower garden. When the flowers are in bloom, watch and record what type of pollinating insects visit the flowers and how many of each insect.

### **Discussion after reading:**

- Do you think the bumblebee is an important insect? Why or why not?
- What are the keys things we can do to make sure the bumblebee survives?