

Draw a realistic bumblebee

Step by step for beginners



The easiest way to draw a bee, when you're a beginner, is to draw it as if you are looking down on one from the top. This way, you can focus on creating some very simple shapes and getting the proportions right.

You can complete this drawing just using pencils or, if you want to add colour, use coloured pencils in black, grey, yellow, orange and red.

This is part of a series of step-by-step drawing guides for beginners.

Bees have varied markings depending on whether they are a Queen, worker, male or female. There are several parts to their anatomy: the head and eyes, thorax (centre), abdomen, antennae, wings and six legs.

If you want to be really accurate, see if you can observe some bumblebees and note their markings.

Some bumblebees have white markings or even red/orange, as well as black and yellow stripes.

Some of their names include:

- Red-tailed bumblebee
- Early bumblebee
- Bilberry bumblebee
- Broken-belted bumblebee
- Heath bumblebee
- White-tailed bumblebee

You will need:

- Paper, suitable for sketching
- Pencil
- Eraser
- Coloured pencils: black, grey, yellow, orange and red

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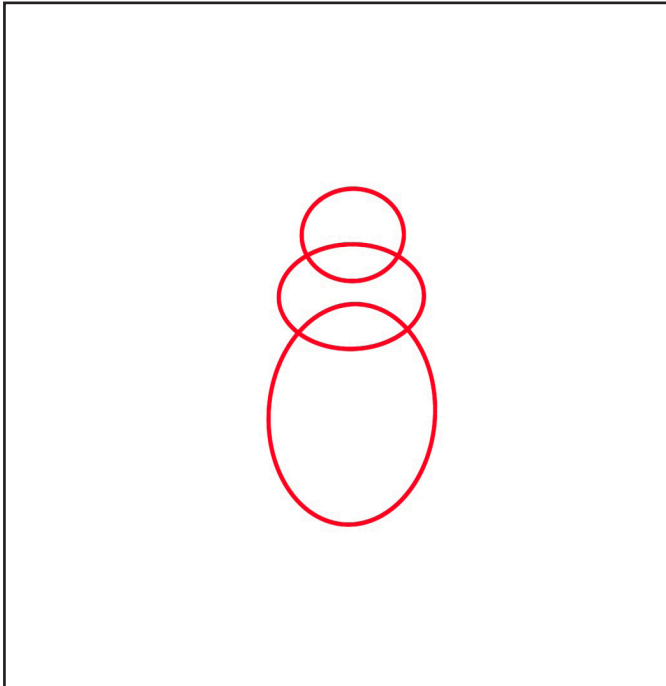
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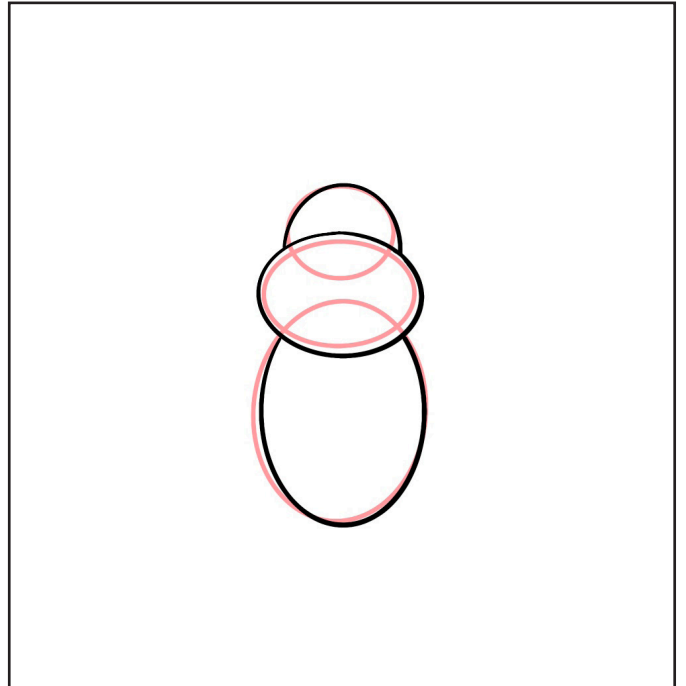
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The first stage of creating your bee, is to create the outline using a pencil. Think of the bee as a series of shapes: three ovals for the body and 4 petal-like shapes for the wings.



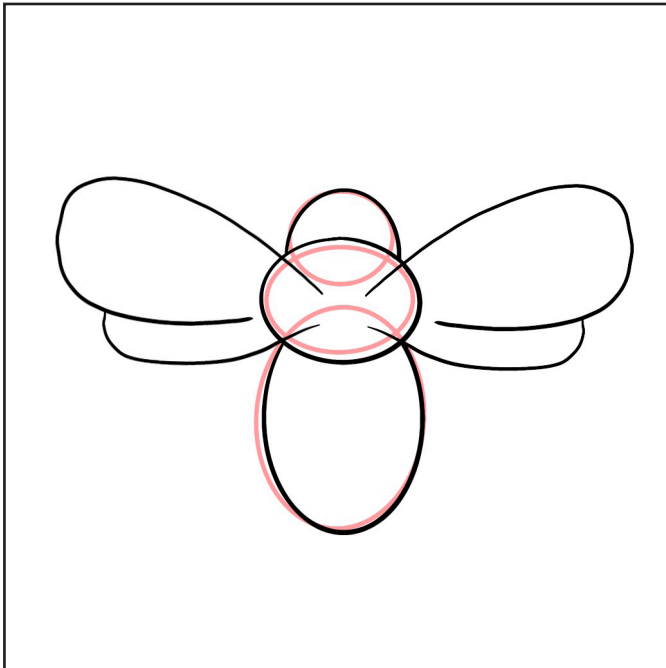
Step One

Draw three overlapping ovals. These will form a guide for the outline of the body. Draw them lightly, so you can erase them later.



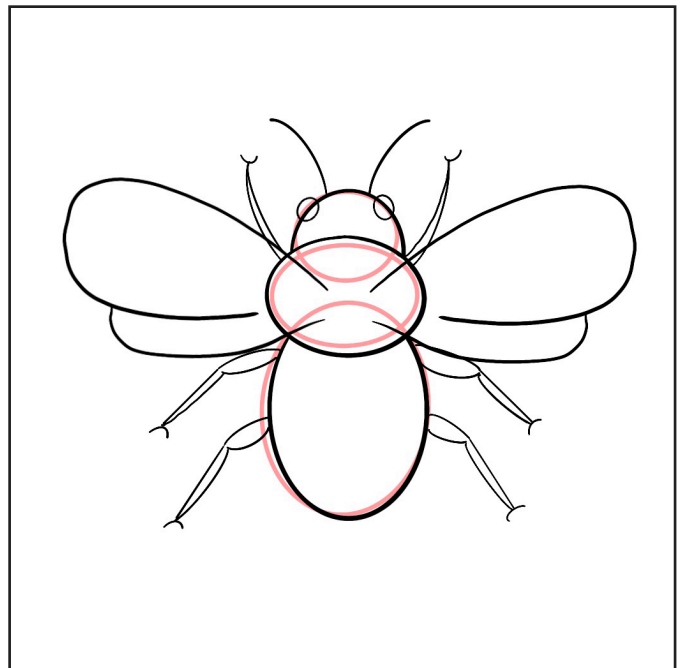
Step Two

Draw an outline around the ovals, noting the proportions. The thorax is 2x the size of the head; the abdomen is 1.5x the size of the thorax.



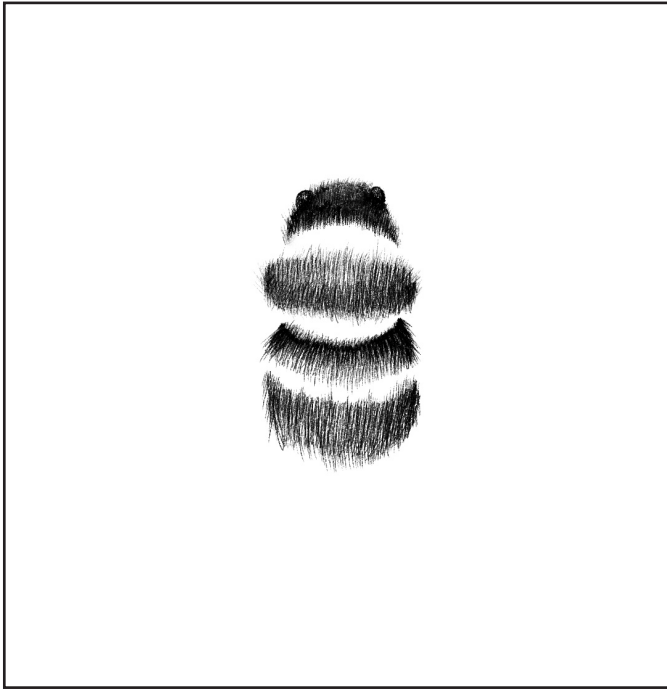
Step Three

Draw petal-shaped sets of wings. Make them fairly symmetrical and position them on either side of the central oval (the thorax).



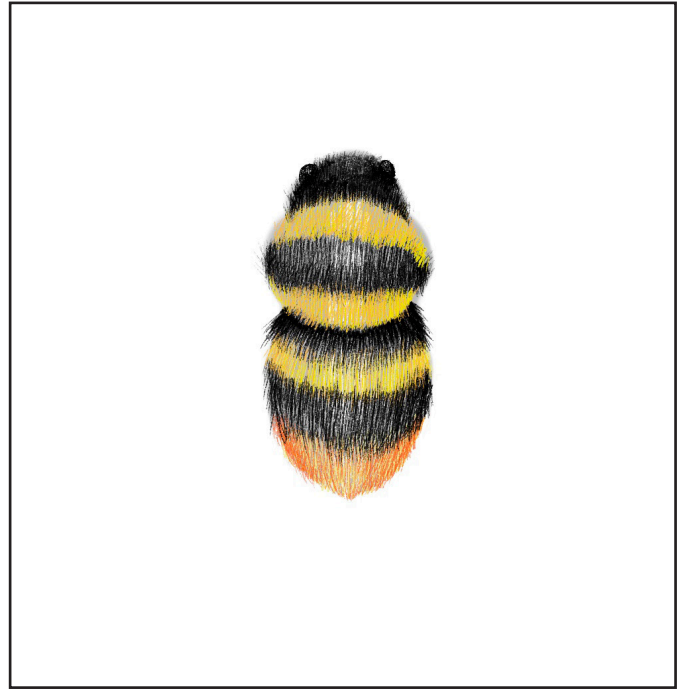
Step Four

Complete the outline of your bee, with six legs, eyes and two antennae. Keep the lines as simple curves and make them symmetrical.



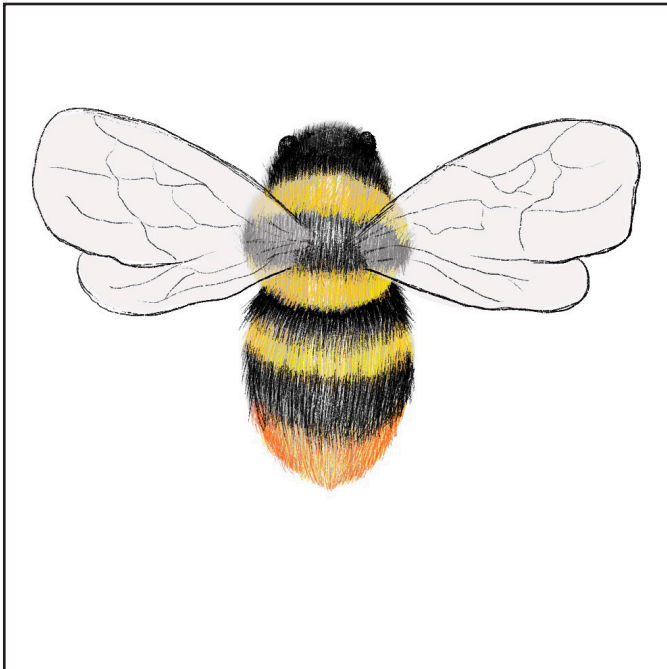
Step Five

Start adding colour to the bee's body. Use a black pencil to create lines that look like randomly crossing hair-like strokes.



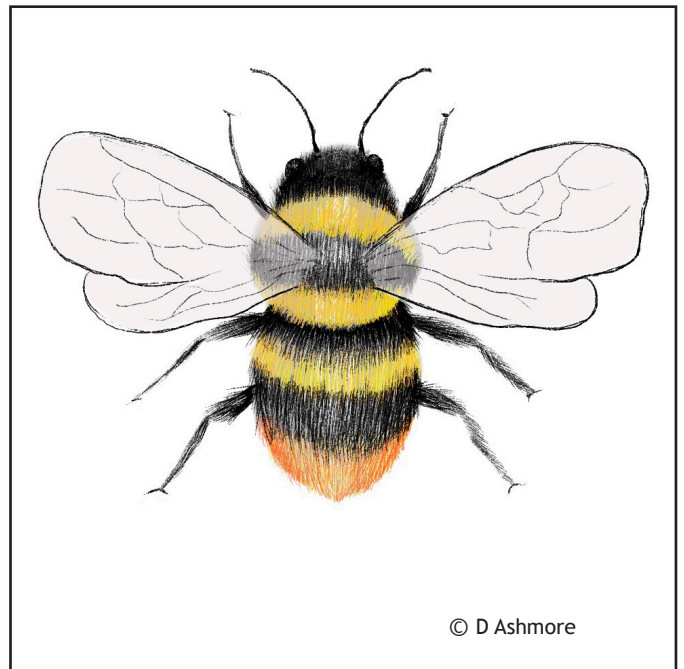
Step Six

Use yellow and orange pencils to add more stripes to the body, depending on which colours you choose for your bee.



Step Seven

Go over the outline of the wings and add thin lines to the centre. Use an eraser to lighten the area of the body under the wing.



Step Eight

Using a black pencil, add colour to the legs, using small, hair-like strokes. Go over the outline of the antennae. Your bee is finished.



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About us



Left to right: Liz, Paddy and Diane by the side of the River Nene, Northamptonshire, where they often go walking in nature.

Make & Do Crafts is a local business based in Northamptonshire, UK, offering sewing, crafting and art classes for adults and children. Join us online or in person.

Sewing, papercrafts and sketching aren't just sewing, papercrafts and sketching. They are calmers, me-time and connecting with what's happening now, rather than worrying about the future or dwelling on the past.

Diane has a background in media and publishing and a passion for arts and crafts. She studied The Practice and Theory of Visual Arts at Chelsea College in London, graduating in 1998. She's always enjoyed sketching and has worked with volunteers for years.

Liz has many years (over 30!) as a arts specialist teacher in schools. She brings an extensive background of teaching knowledge to the classes and has run private groups for many years.

Find out more about us: makeanddocrafts.co.uk



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