



NatureScot

Scotland's Nature Agency
Buidheann Nàdair na h-Alba



A house of chewed wood

Did you know that wasps are amazing architects? They build their nests out of chewed up wood, which they mould into nests with six-sided (hexagonal) cells. You may see one in a loft or under the eaves of your home.



A growing family

The queen wasp comes out of hibernation in late spring. She builds a small nest and lays her first eggs. These hatch into workers who make the nest bigger and take over feeding the young.

The end of summer and hibernation

At the end of summer the queen lays some eggs that become male wasps. Other eggs will become queens. Those queens mate and then hibernate until late spring.

Nobody loves me

Wasps may be common, but they are not popular. They like fruit and sweets, so they can be a nuisance at picnics. They are however pollinators, and control pests in gardens and parks as they hunt grubs and caterpillars to feed their young.

Laugh out loud

Where do you take a sick wasp?
To waspital.

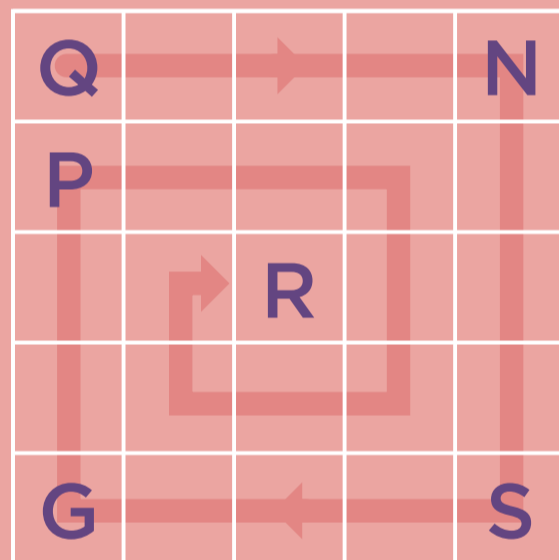


Stripes and anchors

The common wasp has a black and yellow striped body. Its antennae are black and its legs yellow.

Wasp words

Fill in the words in the grid below following the direction of the background grey arrow. The last letter of each answer is also the first letter in the next answer. There are some clues in the box below



Clues

- There is only one of these in each wasp nest (5)
- Wasps build these from paper they make from chewed wood (5)
- Only the female can do this (5)
- A wasp has six legs with which to g--p any insects it catches (4)
- Just like bees and hoverflies, the wasp is one of these (10)

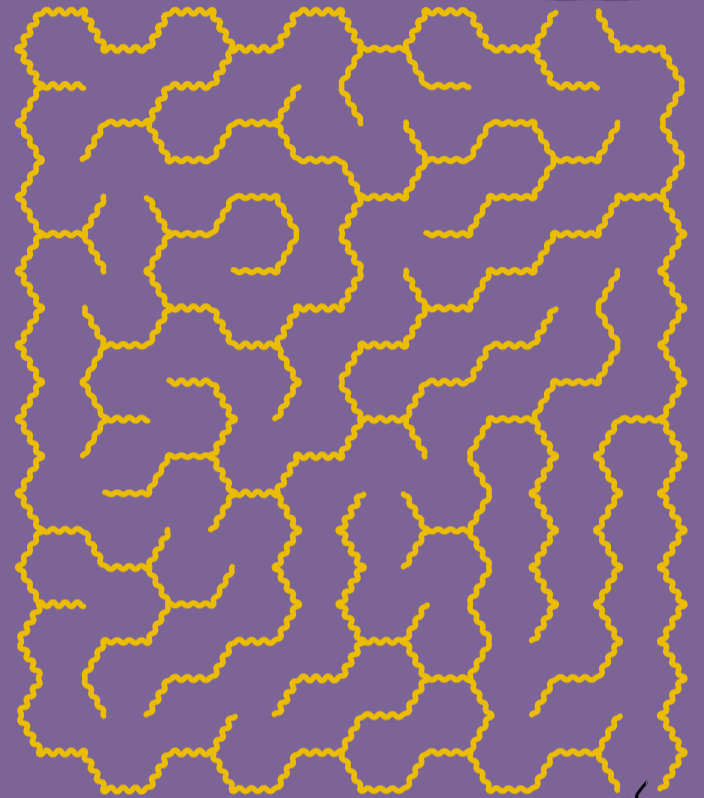
Answers: Queen, Nests, Sting, Grip, Pollinator

Hoverfly or wasp?

At first glance hoverflies can be mistaken for wasps. But look closely - hoverflies hover, and can fly sideways. Hoverflies can't sting you, they are coloured like wasps to stop birds and other predators from eating them.

Hungry Wasp

Our wasp wants to reach the fruit at the other end of this maze. Can you help guide the wasp to the fruit without crossing any of the lines?



I want to be alone

In the UK we have - wait for it - over 7,000 types of wasp. Most of these are small solitary wasps that don't live in a colony.

