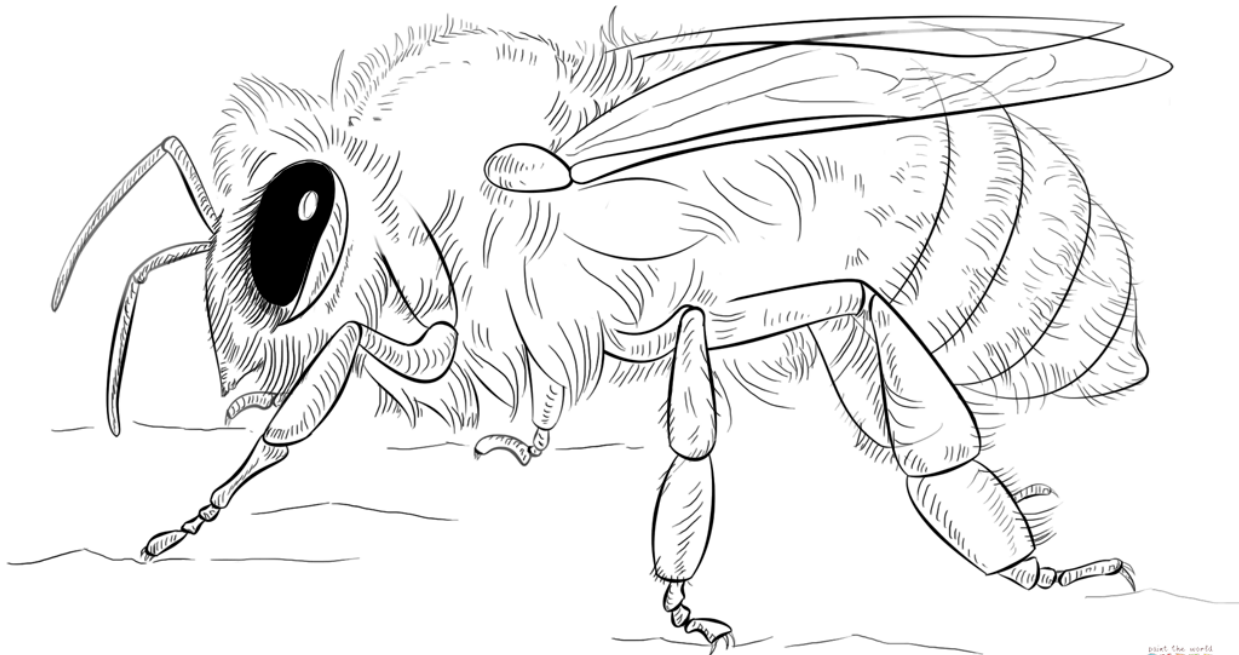


North Carolina State Insect: The Honey Bee

In 1973, the North Carolina General Assembly named the Honey Bee as the Official State Insect of North Carolina. Honey bees are important for helping pollinate plants, and without them we wouldn't be able to enjoy many berries, fruits and vegetables. They also produce honey and make wax in their hives. These products were important during colonial times and are still important today. Honey and beeswax have been used in food, medicine, and cosmetics and beeswax has been used to make candles. Since the 1980s, the numbers of bees in North Carolina and throughout the world have been dropping, and scientists are trying to figure out what has caused this in order to help the bees survive – and to help us continue to have fruits and vegetables.



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