



INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

The Bee

NATURE'S GREATEST ENGINEER

1.

The way that bees construct their honeycombs shows some incredible engineering. The hexagonal walls are the most efficient structures in nature, allowing bees to use the least amount of wax to construct them.



2.

Bees perform a special dance to tell each other the direction and location of food sources up to as far as 6 km away. The 'waggle' dance is their very own sat nav.



3.

When an ageing bee does a job usually done by a younger bee, its brain stops ageing. In fact, it actually ages in reverse!



4.

Bees' brains are hardwired to do certain jobs.

- Scout bees search for new sources of food and live for adventure.
- Soldier bees work as security guards their whole life.
- Some middle-aged bees become undertakers - their brain suddenly makes them want to remove dead bees from the hive.
- But most amazingly, regular honeybees, who perform multiple jobs in their lifetime, change their actual brain chemistry before taking on a new role.

