

# How to Paint a Bee



Photo 1 – A simple bee painted on different shaped rocks

## What you'll need

Paint - White, bright yellow, and black

Brushes – Assortment of small and medium brushes

Other – Chalk, pencil, and stylus

## Select a rock



Photo 2 - Shapes for bees are round, oval or teardrop



Photo 3 – Rock used

Cute, whimsical bees with transparent wings make perfect subjects for painting on small oval, round or teardrop shaped rocks. Photo 2

This is the rock I used for this project. Photo 3

## Paint the basecoat



Photo 4 – Base coat the rock white



Photo 5 –Paint the rock yellow

With a flat brush, paint the rock white. This will make the yellow color brighter. Photo 4

You can paint your bee any yellow color. I used a bright yellow color over the white. It will take 2 or 3 coats to get good solid coverage on some colors. Paint top and bottom. Photo 5

## Sketch the layout

Here is the pattern for painting the bee. Photo 6

With chalk, sketch three or four stripes on the body. The stripes can be straight or wavy, as they are on this bee. Photo 7

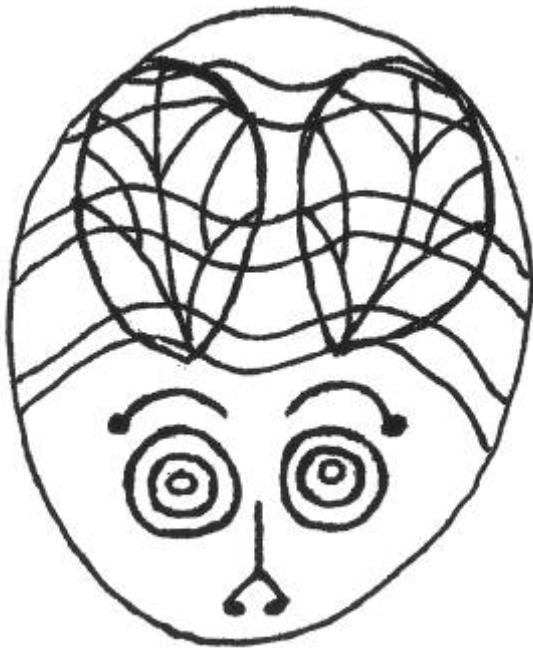
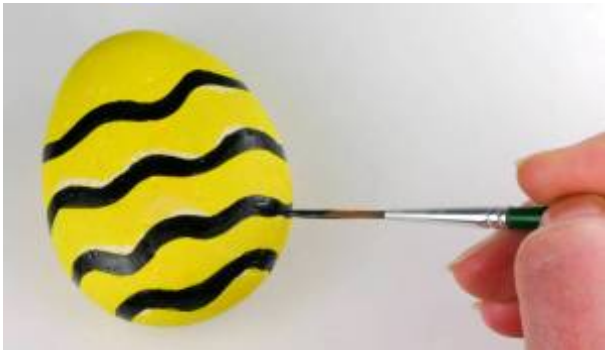


Photo 6 – Sketch for bee



Photo 7 – Add stripes with chalk



Use black paint and a liner brush to paint over the chalk lines. Make the lines thin or thick, your choice. Photo 8

Photo 8 – Add stripes

### Face detail

With chalk, put a mark where each eye will go. You can vary the space between the eyes, but make them at least one eye width apart. Once satisfied with the eye placement, paint the eyes black. Paint them freehand if you prefer or want a different eye shape Photo 9



Photo 9 – Dip eraser into puddle of paint



Photo 10 – Press eraser to rock

Use the eraser end of a new pencil to easily make two, perfectly shaped round black eyes. Dip the eraser into a fresh puddle of paint for each eye to get them the same size. Photo 9

Press the eraser onto the rock where the chalk eyes were sketched, then lift straight off. Photo 10



Use a liner brush and black paint to add a curved antenna above each eye. Photo 11

Photo 11 – Add antennas above eyes



Photo 12 – Add face detail

With a liner brush, paint an upside down Y shaped nose with black paint.

Add a small dot to the end of each antenna and the Y end of the nose.

Add small white dots to the black eyes. The round end of a stylus or the handle end of a small paintbrush makes perfect round dots. Photo 12

## Wings



Photo 13 – Sketch the wings with chalk



Photo 14 – Outline the wings with paint

With chalk, sketch the wings on. Photo 13

Use a liner brush and white paint to outline the wings. Add a few veins. Photo 14



Dilute white paint with water to make it transparent. It should be thin enough so the yellow and black bee body shows through the wings.

Use a small flat brush to lightly paint the wings. Photo 15

Photo 15 – Add diluted white paint to wings



### Final detail

With white paint and a liner brush, paint a circle of white around the black eyes. Your bee is now complete. Photo 16

Photo 16 – Your finished bee

Make a whole swarm of bees with different looking faces by changing the eyes, nose and antennas.

Change the bodies by painting different shades of yellow and orange. Make the stripes different and vary the wing shapes. Photo 17



Photo 17 – A swarm of bees with small changes

See a few step-by-step pictures of the bee in the back row, left side on the next page.



The stripes are “feathered” on this version of the bee. Use a liner brush to make fur like strokes.

Sketch face details on with a pencil if the chalk is too wide for your details.



The face is shaded with a watery orange color.

The same orange color is used to add more “feathering” to the yellow stripes. The black stripes are highlighted with gray “feathering”.

