

## Lesson 6 The waggle dance

**Learning Outcome:** To understand how bees communicate

### Teacher information

Did you know that bees communicate by dancing? A honeybee returns to the hive with information about a source of nectar, how good it is and how abundant as well as what direction and how far away it is. They communicate this to the other foraging bees by dancing in a figure of eight pattern when they return to the hive.

### Student Activities

Watch the waggle dance in action:

[https://youtu.be/nga4Z\\_HRUsU](https://youtu.be/nga4Z_HRUsU)

Or this version could link to maths lessons for older students:

<https://youtu.be/1MX2WN-7Xzc>



Get students to recreate the waggle dance in the classroom. Ask one student to leave the room while the dance is set up. While they are gone, hide an agreed treasure (use a bee toy or flower if you have one) somewhere in the classroom. When you are ready, invite the student to return to the classroom.

The student who hid the item should be the lead waggledancer. They need to lead the other student to the treasure by using the waggle dance. They should dance in a figure of eight really shaking their body/wagging when they reach the middle line of the \*. The middle line of their figure eight should be pointing to where the treasure is hidden. If the treasure is far away then the wagging should be slow. Waggle fast if the treasure is close.

When the treasure is found, the activity could be repeated with new waggledancers and seekers.

You could play music during the dancing.

