


# Yes, I am a sensitive creature too!

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**Do insects have feelings? For a long time, people thought it was crazy to think bugs could have emotions. But now scientists are changing their minds.**

## What's happening?

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Insects are not popular. Some insects sting us. Others can carry **diseases**. And some fall in our fizzy drinks and ruin them.

People like to get rid of them. We have **fly swats**. And some people make it their **job** to get rid of unwanted insects. But now, scientists say we are wrong to be cruel to insects.

## Find out more

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Researchers say insects could have feelings like us.

They have done experiments that prove some insects can have **emotions**. Flies get scared. They can also feel pain. Bumblebees get excited when they have a nice surprise. **Fruit flies** can be jealous of each other.

Insects have been on the planet for a long time. The first one **evolved** 400 million years ago, long before dinosaurs!

Experts say we should think about insects in a different way. If they can have feelings, they are similar to other animals like dogs or cats.

Do insects have feelings?

## Some say

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No. This is crazy! Insects might change how they behave at times. They might move quickly when they are in danger. Bees might do a dance when they find a flower. But these are natural reactions. They don't have feelings like us!

## Others think

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Yes! Insects are different. But that does not mean we should be cruel to them. They can get scared and feel pain. They work in families and have friends. We should respect them more!

## Key words

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**Diseases** – Some mosquitoes carry disease called malaria. They infect lots of people and can cause death.

**Fly swat** – An object used to kill flies. Fly swats are usually flat, plastic objects with a handle.

**Job** – Exterminators are paid to get rid of pests people do not want in their homes. One example of a pest is a cockroach. It is an insect that is famously hard to kill.

**Emotion** – An emotion is a feeling, like being happy, excited or sad.

**Fruit flies** – Tiny flies that like fruit. They only live for 10 days but lots of people think they are a nuisance.

**Evolved** – To evolve is to develop slowly and come into being. All life on Earth evolved slowly.