

The Lifecycle of a Honeybee

Honeybees live in a hive. Some hives are provided by humans so that the honey can easily be harvested but honeybees also make their own hives in the wild. Each hive has three types of bees that live inside: a queen, workers and drones.

The queen bee lays all of the eggs within the hive and it takes 21 days for the egg to mature into an adult bee.

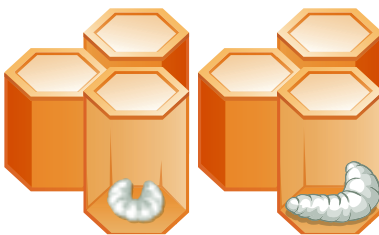
Egg

All honeybees begin as an egg. The queen bee lays a single egg in a cell of honeycomb inside the hive.



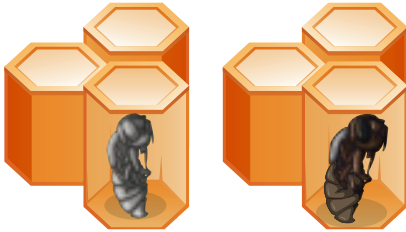
Larva

After 3 to 4 days, each egg hatches into a larva. The larvae look like small, white worms and they continue to grow over several days. Worker bees feed the larvae.



Pupa

Eventually, the worker bees put a wax cap over the honeycomb and the larvae become pupae and are no longer fed. The pupa begins to change, developing eyes, legs and wings as it turns into an adult bee.



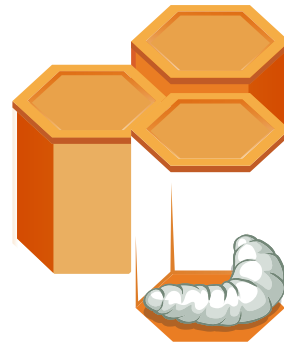
Adult

After 21 days, the fully grown bee emerges from the cell. It stays in the hive for 3 weeks and then becomes a forager bee, looking for pollen. Forager bees bring the pollen back to the hive.



SEQUENCING ACTIVITY

Cut out the information cards and pictures about the lifecycle of a honeybee. Use the reading practice text to match the picture and information cards, then place them in the correct order to show the honeybee's lifecycle.



Eggs hatch into larvae after 3 to 4 days and are fed by worker bees.

The queen bee lays the egg into honeycomb cells.

After 21 days, the adult bee emerges from its cell and stays in the hive for another 21 days.

Worker bees place a wax cap on the top of the honeycomb cell and the pupa develops eyes, legs and wings.



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