

# Primary Science: Honeybee Life Cycle



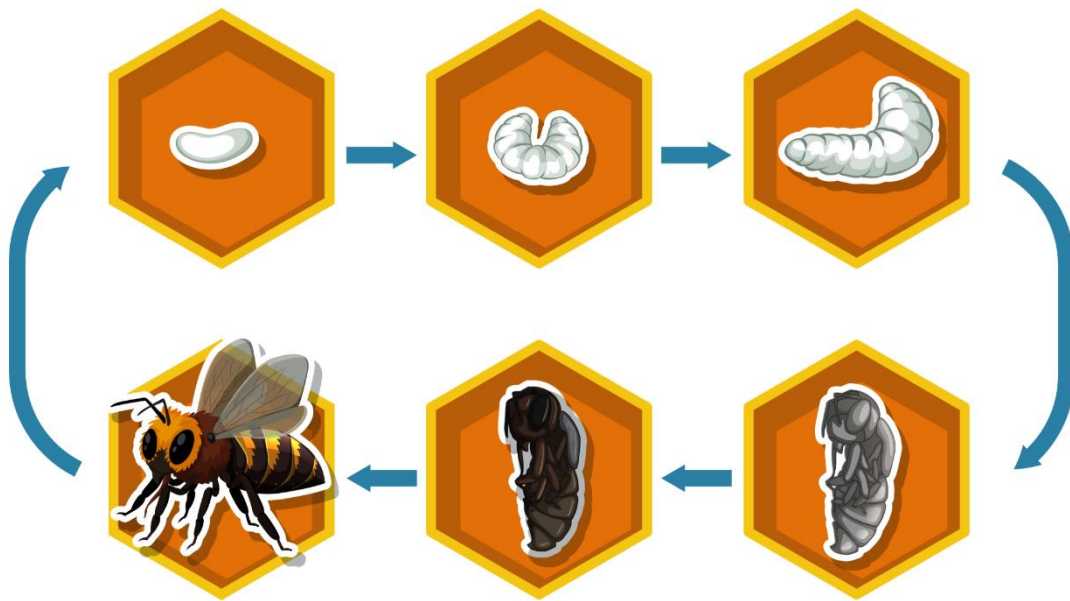
Honeybees are flying insects. Honeybees live in colonies that have a single queen that starts the life cycle.

A queen needs to be impregnated in order for it to lay eggs. A queen is capable of laying up to around 2,000 eggs a day. There are basic stages in the honeybee life cycle, the egg, the larva, the pupa, and the adult.

An egg can grow into either a worker, drone (male) or a queen bee. Queens take the shortest time to grow while a worker bee is the longest.



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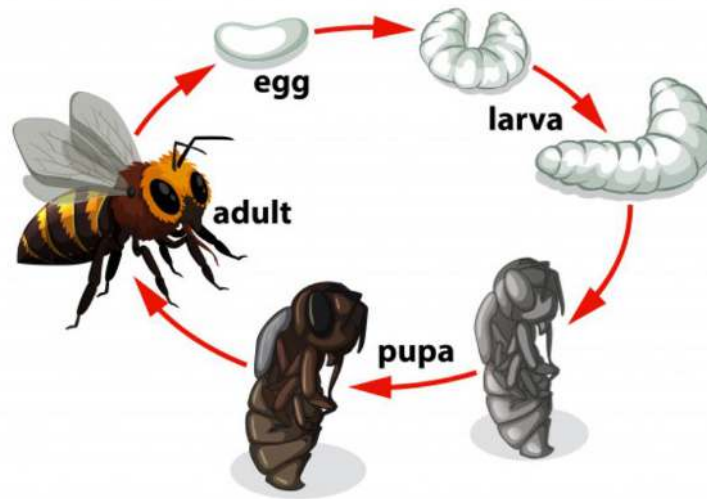


The honeybee life cycle begins with the queen being impregnated by the drone bees. The mating of bees happens outside of the nest during flight.

After mating, the queen will return to its colony. Eggs are laid in hexagonal egg cells that are covered in wax. Eggs will develop into larvae after 3 days.

A larva has no defining features and is legless. It never leaves the wax cell and grows at a rapid speed with the help of the worker bees who bring food to the larva.

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The pupa stage is when the cell of the larva is fully grown, the larva changes. The cell the larva is in is sealed with a wax capping when the larva is engorged on extra food. To enclose itself, it spins a thin silk cocoon within each cell. The pupa does not move at all.

Once the pupa has developed wings, legs, eyes, and other parts, it will start chewing its way out of the wax capping, becoming a young adult bee. The young adult bee will then collect pollen and nectar as food for the entire colony.



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**Answer the questions.**

How does the life cycle start?

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Where does the queen lay her eggs?

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How many eggs can the queen lay?

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**Answer the questions.**

What are the four stages of the life cycle?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

What are the three types of bees?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



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**Answer the questions.**

Explain the larva stage.

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How does a pupa become a young adult bee?

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