

An illustration of a beehive with three white boxes on a brown wooden stand. Two bees are flying near the entrance holes on the top of the boxes. To the right, a large yellow sunflower with a bee on its center is shown. The background features green hills and a blue sky with another bee flying. The title text is overlaid on the beehive boxes.

All About the Life Cycle of a Bee

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Different Bees

In a beehive, there are three different types of bee.



queen bee

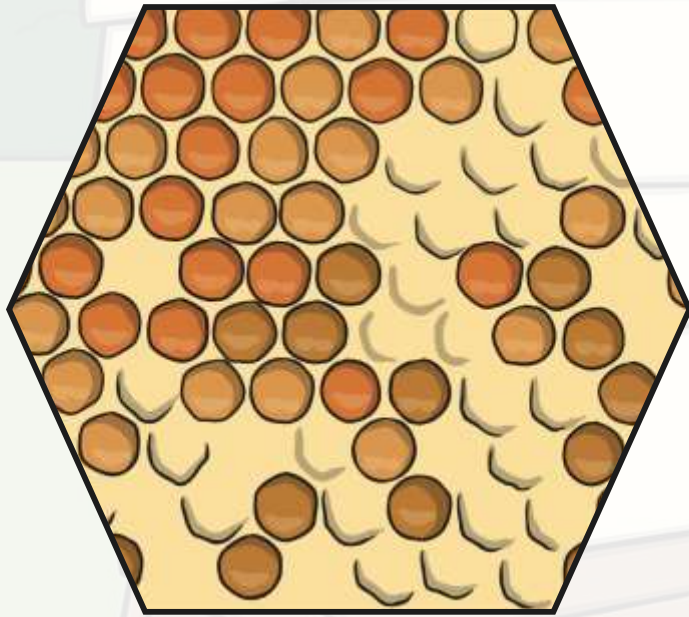


worker bee



drone bee

The Egg



The first stage in the life of a bee is when the queen bee lays a single egg in a **cell** of the honeycomb.

A cell is a small hole in the honeycomb.

The honeycomb is made by the worker bees.

The egg is long, thin and white.

The Larvae



After around three days, the egg hatches into a larvae.

The larvae is fed royal jelly, which is made by the worker bees. This is like a white liquid.

The larvae looks like a white worm.

The Larvae

This is called the pupa stage.

Then, the larvae is fed bee bread. This is a mixture of honey and pollen.

After a few days, the cell is sealed by the worker bees with a lid of wax.



The Pupa

The pupa grows but is no longer fed.

The pupa spins a cocoon and begins to change. Its legs, eyes and wings grow in the cocoon.

After 21 days from being a new egg, the pupa has become an adult bee.



The Adult Bee



The fully grown bee bites the lid off the cell and climbs out.

It is a light grey colour. It stays in the hive for 21 days.

At 22 days old, the bee becomes a forager bee. This means it will fly to flowers and look for pollen.

An adult bee can live for up to six weeks in the summer.

Life Cycle of a Bee

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adult



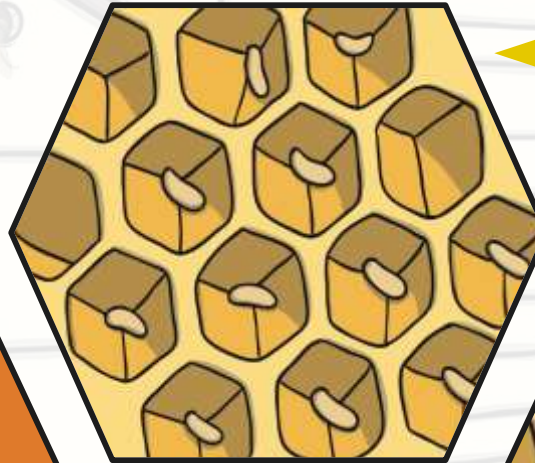
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pupa



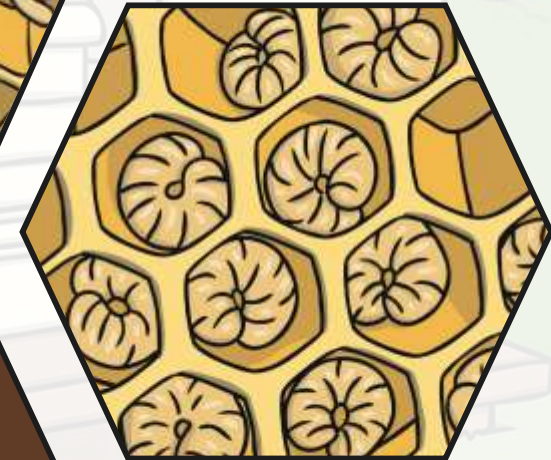
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egg



2

larvae





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