

Community Science

Pollinators – Grade 3

Bumble Bee Progressive Skit Worksheet

Name: _____

Draw a picture for each section of the story.

1. The snow is melting and the first blossoms of the year are emerging. The queen bumble bee has been hibernating underground since the end of last summer. She begins to wake up.

2. The queen bumble bee is very hungry and needs energy for her important work. She flies looking for spring's first blossoms so she can fill up on nectar.

3. The queen now has the energy she needs to find a place to build her nest. Bumble bees like to nest underground, in bird boxes, or under sheds.

4. The queen prepares her nest for her offspring. She builds a mound of pollen on which to lay her eggs. She makes a wax pot and fills it with nectar so she'll have enough food to eat while she's sitting on her eggs.

5. The queen lays her fertilized eggs on the mound and covers them with wax. She sits on her eggs to keep them warm and drinks nectar to keep up her energy.

6. The eggs hatch and small grubs or larvae emerge. The larvae pupate, or form cocoons, then adult bees emerge. This process takes 4-5 weeks.

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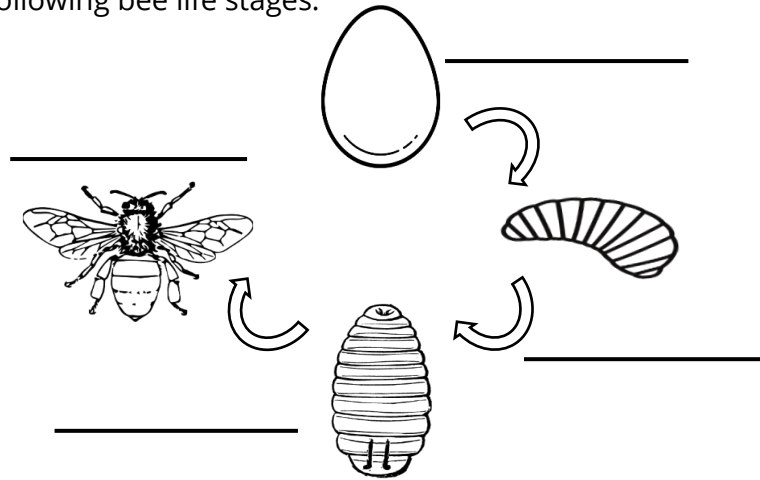
<p>7. Each of these new hatched adult bees are female worker bees. Their first job is to go out and collect pollen and nectar for the queen and larvae in their growing colony.</p>	<p>8. These female worker bees will feed and care for the queen bee and larvae until the larvae become a pupa and then transform into adult bees themselves.</p>
<p>9. As spring progresses into summer more and more worker bees are produced. A bumble bee colony can produce as many 500 bees (this is far smaller than a honeybee colony which can produce up to 80,000 bees).</p>	<p>10. Toward the end of the summer, the colony produces male bumble bees from unfertilized eggs. The males emerge from the colony and never return. They have only one job: to mate with the new queens.</p>
<p>11. At the same time that male bumble bees leave the nest, new queen bumble bees are produced. She must mate with a male bumble bee so she can start her own colony next spring.</p>	<p>12. At the end of summer, or in early autumn, the entire colony dies off, except for the new queens.</p>
<p>13. The new queen hibernates and whole cycle begins again with the new queen.</p>	

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1. Fill in the blanks for the following bee life stages.



2. What food do bumble bees eat?

3. Where do bumble bees live?

4. How do bumble bees take care of their young?