



Life Cycle of a Honey Bee

Name: _____

Date: _____

Honey Bee's go through four stages of development.

1. **Egg:** The Queen lays her eggs in an empty cell within her honeycomb. The egg is extremely small, about the size of a spec. Based on the cell the Queen bee chooses for the egg will decipher whether the bee will be a female worker bee, or a male drone bee. Females need a smaller cell to develop and males need a larger cell to develop.
2. **Larva:** In a few days the egg will hatch and the larva will come out. The larva develops quickly shedding its skin five times. Nurse bees feed the larva 1,300 times a day, they are hungry and growing! Within five days the larva will be large enough for the worker bees to seal the larva with beeswax. At this point the larva can develop a cocoon around their bodies.
3. **Pupa:** Once the bee is in the cocoon, the larva is now a pupa. During the pupa stage the bee develops it eyes, legs, hair, and wings. The bee starts looking more like a bee than a worm!
4. **Adult:** After about 12 days the bee is fully developed and considered an adult. The bee begins to chew its way out of the cell and begin its life as a busy working bee!

Directions: After reading about the life cycle of the honey bee, label each stage of development of the honey bee 1 through 4.








