

Example Text: Explanation

How does a bee develop?

Bees are social insects that live in organised groups called colonies. Each colony lives in a hive and each hive has one queen, some drones or male bees, and lots and lots of worker bees. It is the drones' job to mate with the queen so that she can lay eggs.

A queen bee will begin laying eggs 10 days after mating. Each egg will be placed in a cell in the comb (inside the hive). She will lay about 3 000 eggs a day for the rest of her life, about 2 years, and she will never leave the hive.

Four days after being laid, the eggs will hatch. At this stage they are called larvae. The larvae will be fed 'bee bread' which is a mixture of nectar and pollen.

On the ninth day after hatching, the larvae cells will be covered with wax as they begin the transformation into a pupa. Whilst at this stage, the pupa will not eat.

Finally, 21 days from the beginning of the lifecycle, the pupa opens and an adult worker bee emerges, ready to begin life collecting pollen to make honey for the hive.

This life cycle process for bees is known as metamorphosis.

Can you use the information in the text to label the diagram to help readers understand the explanation?

