

The Life Cycle of a Queen Bumblebee

1 At the very beginning of spring, the queen wakes up and looks for somewhere to nest.



2 She finds a little hole to nest in. Perhaps an old mouse hole, soft with moss.



3 In her nest, she makes a wax pot. She gathers nectar from the flowers to fill it with food.



4 The queen lays her eggs inside the nest and keeps them warm.



5 Little larvae hatch out. The queen gathers pollen from flowers for them to eat.



6 When they have eaten enough, each larva spins a cocoon.



7 Out of each cocoon comes a bee! Some are male, others are female.



8 Some female bees are helpers, others grow into queens. Each queen finds a mate, a male from a different nest.



9 Each queen bee finds somewhere safe and warm to hibernate through the winter.

