



## **Honeybee Eggs**



Honeybee eggs are very small and are laid in six-sided wax cells. Only the queen can lay eggs and she can lay 2,000 eggs each day. Eggs are cared for by workers called nursery bees that keep the eggs healthy. Nursery bees never leave the colony and spend their life caring for the young. The eggs hatch in three or four days. Most honeybee eggs will become female workers but a few will become male drones and one or two might become a queen.



## **Honeybee Larva**



Honeybee eggs hatch into tiny plump larvae that look like a grub with very big appetites. For the first few days, all larvae eat royal jelly, a highly nutritious milky food made from honey and secretions from the nurse bees. Worker larvae then switch to honey and pollen but larvae destined to be queens and drones are only fed royal jelly. After about nine days, a honeybee cell is capped with wax so the larvae can pupate.



## ***Honeybee Pupa***



Once the honeybee larva has eaten all it can, the nurse bee covers the cell with a wax cap. During the next few weeks the larva will spin a silk cocoon around itself and become a pupa. The soft and plump pupa will use fat and protein reserves to develop legs, eyes, wings, and all their other parts during pupation. Queen cells are very large and drone cells have a tall cap because they are larger than the worker cells.



## ***Honeybee Imago***



When pupation is complete, the honeybee chews through the wax cap and emerges as a drone, worker, or a queen. They are still soft and fuzzy for the first few days but begin working immediately. There is usually only one queen and she can live two-four years and lay 200,000 eggs per year. Drones are male and only live three-four weeks. Workers are female and live two-three months so the queen is constantly laying eggs during the spring and summer months. Each bee has a set of jobs to do according to preset roles to keep the hive healthy.