# Honey Bees

Read the passage. Then answer the questions in full sentences.

Name _____ Date _____

A honey bee hive has one queen. She lays all the eggs, up to 1,500 in a day. She puts each egg in its own six-sided cell made of wax.

After 3 days, the egg hatches into a larva, a white grub curled at the bottom of its cell. Young worker bees take care of it. After about 6 days, the workers cover the cell with a wax cap.

Under the cap, the larva becomes a pupa, and its body slowly changes into the body of a bee. About 21 days after the egg was laid, a new worker bee chews her way out of the cell.

A worker bee has many jobs. The youngest workers care for the eggs and larvae. Older ones build wax comb. The oldest workers fly out to flowers to collect nectar and pollen, and they carry the pollen home in baskets on their back legs.

1. **How many queens does a hive have?**

2. **What does a honey bee larva look like?**

3. **What happens after the workers cover the cell with a wax cap?**

4. **Why do you think the bees you see on flowers are the oldest workers?**

# Answer key

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1. How many queens does a hive have?
   **One.**

2. What does a honey bee larva look like?
   **A white grub curled at the bottom of its cell.**

3. What happens after the workers cover the cell with a wax cap?
   **The larva becomes a pupa, its body changes into a bee's, and about 21 days after the egg was laid, a new worker bee chews her way out.**

4. Why do you think the bees you see on flowers are the oldest workers?
   **Sample answer: the younger workers stay inside the hive to care for the eggs and larvae and to build comb, so only the oldest ones fly out to collect nectar and pollen.**