

Introduction (5-10 minutes)

Start by asking the student what they already know or find interesting about bees. "Have you ever seen a bee buzzing around flowers? What do you think they are doing? Did you know bees go through amazing changes as they grow up, just like butterflies?" Briefly discuss where bees live (hives, honeycombs) and their importance (pollination). Introduce the idea that bees have a special life cycle with four stages.

Instruction & Activity: Exploring the Stages (15-20 minutes)

1. **Egg Stage:** Explain that the queen bee lays a tiny egg, about the size of a grain of rice, in a hexagonal cell in the honeycomb. Ask the student to draw a small oval shape on a piece of paper to represent the egg inside a hexagon shape (the cell).
2. **Larva Stage:** Describe how the egg hatches into a small, white, worm-like creature called a larva. It doesn't have legs or wings yet! Worker bees feed the larva. Ask the student to draw a simple C-shaped larva in another honeycomb cell.
3. **Pupa Stage:** Explain that the larva spins a cocoon around itself and transforms into a pupa. Inside the cocoon, it starts developing legs, wings, and eyes – changing into its adult form. This is called metamorphosis! Have the student draw a pupa inside a capped (closed) honeycomb cell. It might look a bit like a mummy bee!
4. **Adult Stage:** Describe how the fully formed bee chews its way out of the cell. It's now an adult bee ready to do its job in the hive (like collecting nectar or pollen). Have the student draw an adult bee, perhaps flying near a flower or the hive.

Practice: Life Cycle Sequencing Craft (10-15 minutes)

Give the student a larger piece of paper. Have them cut out the four drawings they just made (egg, larva, pupa, adult). Alternatively, use a pre-printed template with the stages to color and cut out. Ask the student to arrange the pictures in the correct order of the bee's life cycle on the larger paper. Once they have the correct sequence, they can glue the pictures down and label each stage. They can draw arrows between the stages to show the cycle continues.

Assessment & Review (5 minutes)

Review the completed life cycle craft together. Ask questions like: "What is the first stage?" "What happens during the pupa stage?" "Can you point to the larva?" "What's the name for the big change bees go through? (Metamorphosis)" Observe the student's ability to correctly sequence and identify the stages.

Closure (5 minutes)

Summarize the four stages learned today (egg, larva, pupa, adult). Reiterate the importance of bees as pollinators and how understanding their life cycle helps us appreciate them. Ask the student what their favorite part of the bee life cycle was.

Differentiation/Extension:

- **Support:** Provide a template with outlines of the stages or pre-labeled cards to sequence. Focus on just identifying and sequencing.
- **Challenge:** Research different types of bees (bumblebee, carpenter bee) and see if their life cycles are similar. Learn about the different jobs adult bees have in the hive (queen, worker, drone). Write a short sentence describing each stage.