

Bee Colony Life Cycle Board Game

Enjoy this fun family game to learn more about the bumble bee life cycle and how the colony changes throughout the year!

Materials:

- Bee Colony Life Cycle Game Board (print a copy or draw your own on a piece of scratch paper)
- A place marker for every player (use a small object you find around your house)
- A coin

How to Play:

You are a young bumble bee queen sleeping underground waiting for winter to end.

The game board follows the seasons of one year. Blue squares represent winter, green for spring, yellow for summer, and orange for fall.

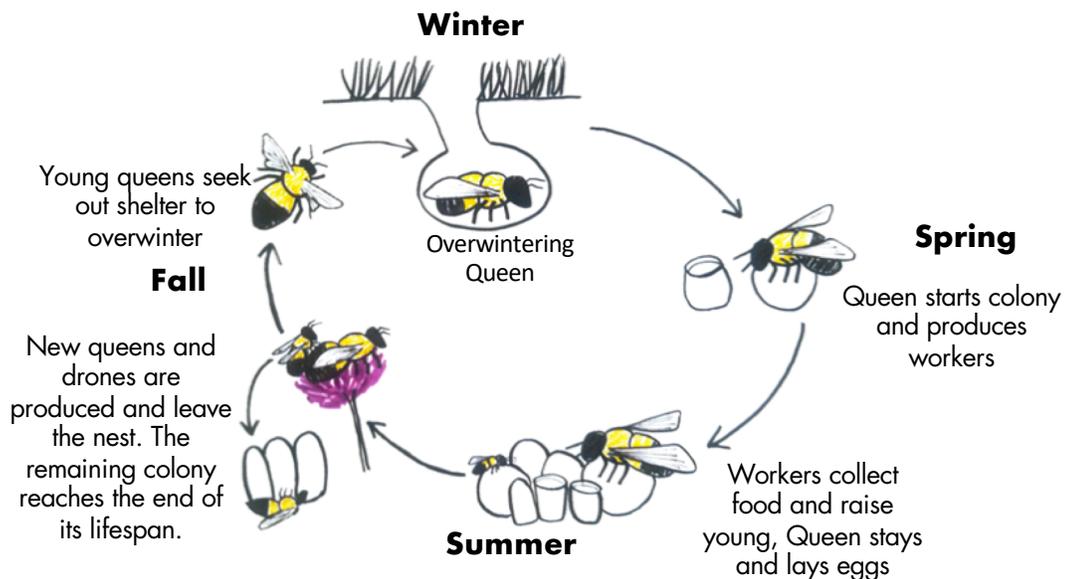
Take turns flipping a coin to see how many spaces to move your marker along the game board. If you flip heads, move one space. If you flip tails, move two spaces. Read the square you land on and follow the action.

A queen bumble bee has a lifespan of one year, can you make it to the end?

Reflect & Replay:

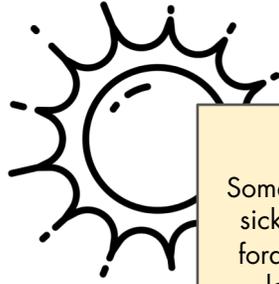
Did you make it to the end of the game? Was it challenging? Think about different things we could do to help bumble bees throughout the year and add them to blank spaces on the board. They will help if they can provide habitat for nesting or overwintering, provide food for queens to survive the winter and grow their colonies throughout the rest of the year, or reduce the use of potentially harmful substances like insecticides.

Now play the game again! Were you able to make it to the end faster?



START

You are accidentally dug up by construction, lose a turn.



Some workers get sick and cannot forage for food, lose a turn.

A bird eats some of your workers, move back one space.



Snowfall covers the ground providing protection like a blanket, flip again.



Workers find tomato plants in a vegetable garden and collect resources from the flowers, advance 2 spaces.



This garden doesn't have any flowers blooming in the fall so the young queens have to look somewhere else, move back one space.



Neighbor planted goldenrod, a great food source that lasts into late fall, advance one space.

Crocus flowers provide an early food source of pollen and nectar to help start your colony, advance one space.

Herbicide treated lawns, with no clover or flowering plants, make food harder for workers to find, move back one space.

Brush piles and fallen leaves were left in the garden which provide cover for young queens to survive winter, flip again.

You found an abandoned mouse burrow, a perfect place to start a colony. Flip again.

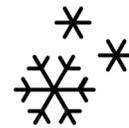


Rainfall causes plants to produce more blooms and nectar, advance 1 space.



Heavy storms cause your burrow to flood, lose a turn

This garden only has flowers that bloom in the summer so you must look somewhere else to forage, move back two spaces.



Congratulations! You survived the full year and the new queens found a safe place to overwinter.

END