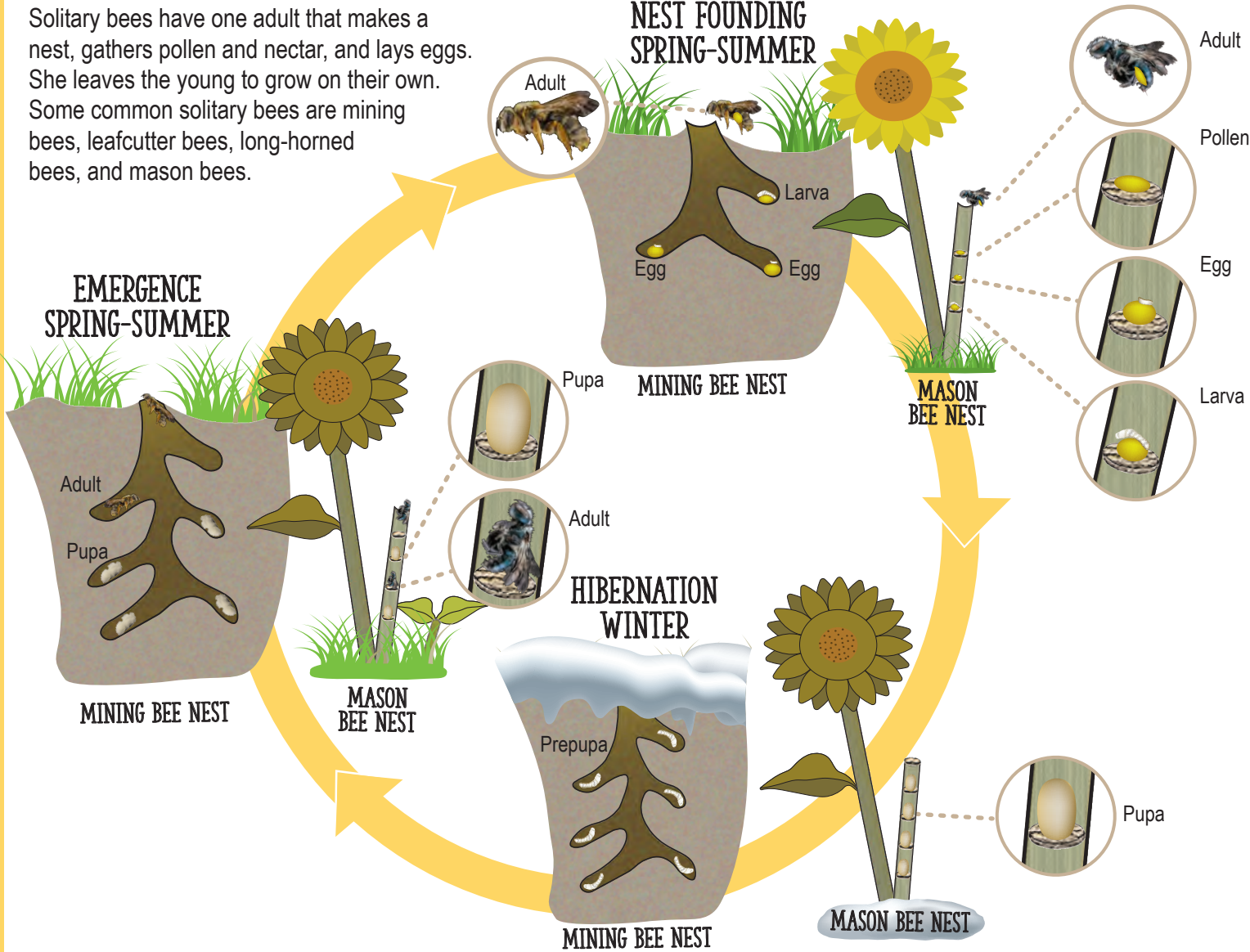


A BEE NEST ROUND THE YEAR

ANNUAL CYCLE OF SOLITARY BEES

Solitary bees have one adult that makes a nest, gathers pollen and nectar, and lays eggs. She leaves the young to grow on their own. Some common solitary bees are mining bees, leafcutter bees, long-horned bees, and mason bees.



NEST FOUNDING SPRING-SUMMER

Mother bees collect and mix pollen and nectar, and lay eggs on pollen balls in a series of separate chambers. The mother bee leaves her young on their own and will die soon after nest construction is done. Eggs hatch into larvae and eat the pollen ball.

HIBERNATION WINTER

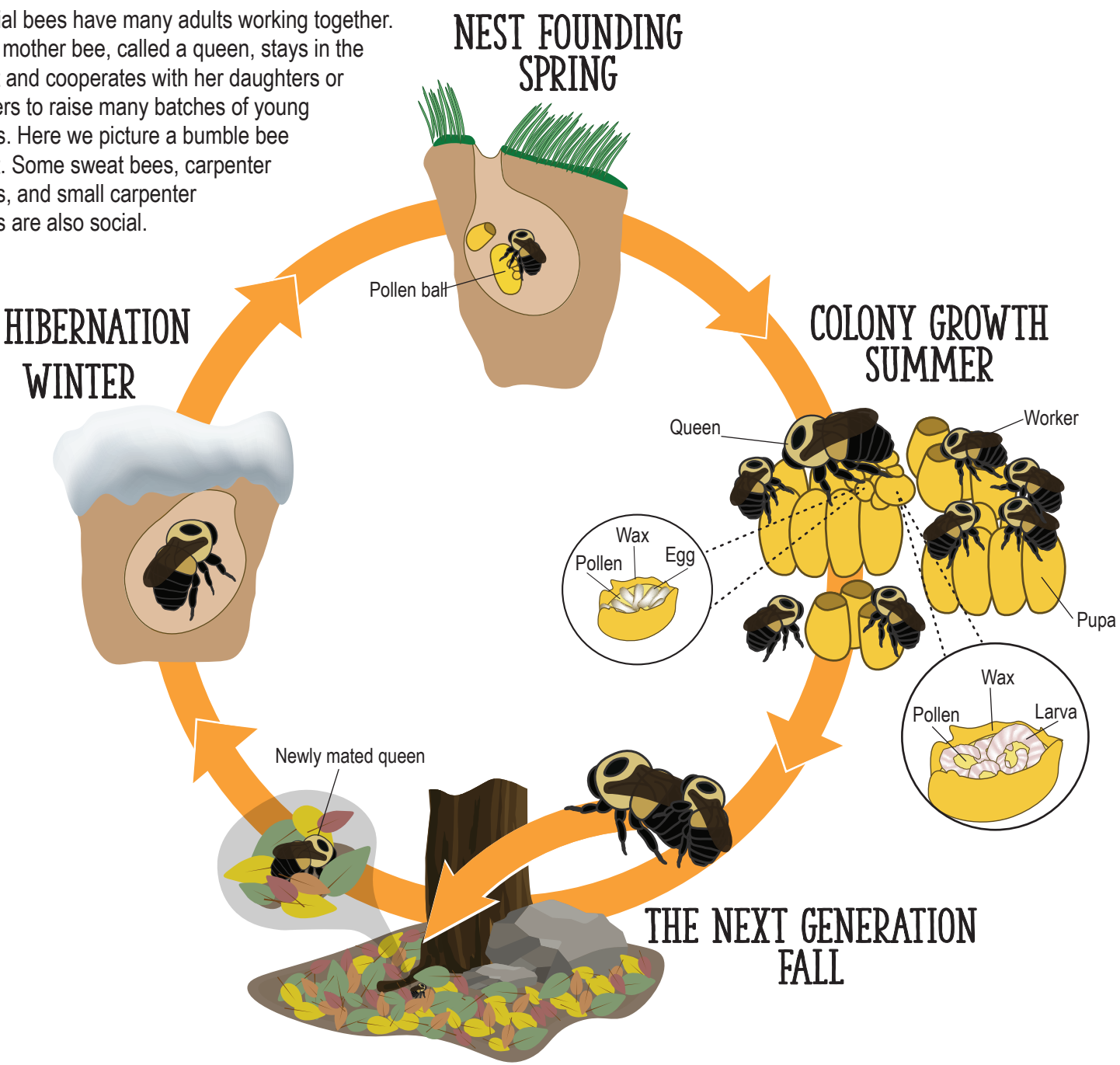
The larvae have eaten all their pollen and spend the winter at rest in the nest as prepupae, pupae (sometimes in cocoons), or adults.

EMERGENCE SPRING-SUMMER

Adult bees leave the nest, find mates, and the females build new nests. Different species of bees emerge at different times.

ANNUAL CYCLE OF SOCIAL BEES

Social bees have many adults working together. The mother bee, called a queen, stays in the nest and cooperates with her daughters or sisters to raise many batches of young bees. Here we picture a bumble bee nest. Some sweat bees, carpenter bees, and small carpenter bees are also social.



NEST FOUNDING SPRING

Queen bees mix pollen and nectar to form a pollen ball and lay eggs on it. Bumble bee queens lay multiple eggs on a pollen ball while most other social bees lay one egg on each pollen ball.

COLONY GROWTH SUMMER

Nests grow through the summer. Adult social bees stay in the nest after they emerge. Bumble bee nests have a queen and her daughters working together. In some social bees, it is sister bees who work together.

THE NEXT GENERATION FALL

Social bees produce the next generation in the fall. New queens and males leave the nest to find mates from other nests. Newly mated queens search for a place to spend the winter, usually digging themselves into the ground.

HIBERNATION WINTER

For most social bees, only new queens survive the winter. In honey bee colonies, the queen and workers survive the winter together in the nest.