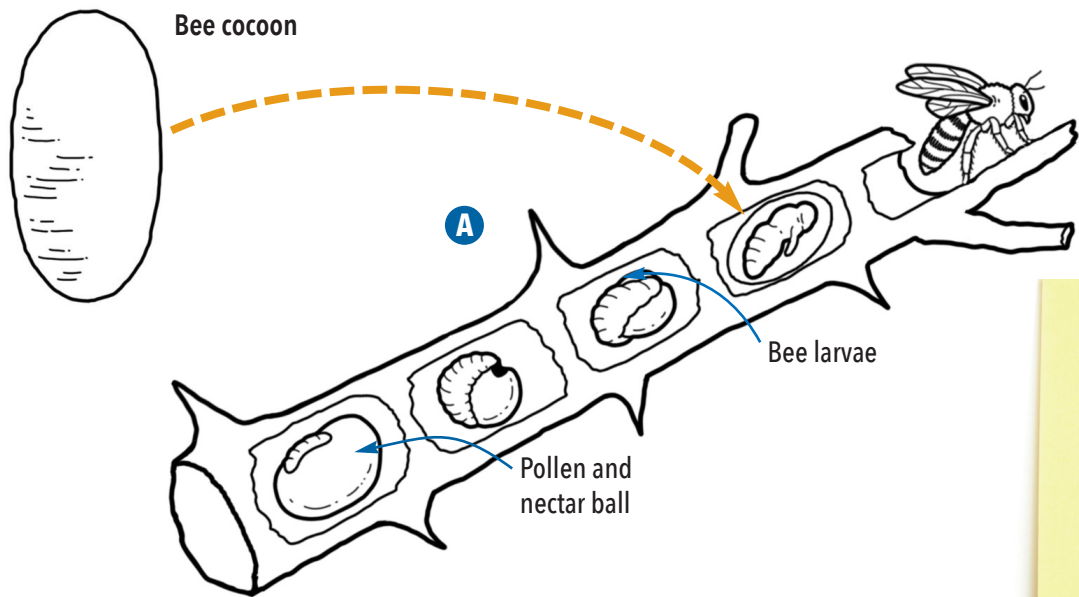
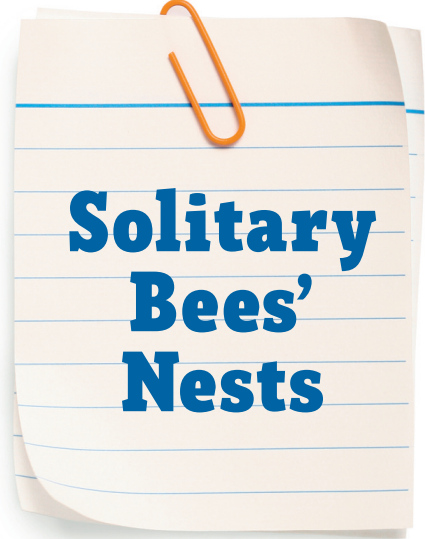


Solitary bees are wild bees that do not live in a hive or with other bees.

These solitary bees are making their nests in three different places:
(A) a plant stem, (B) a tunnel in the ground, and (C) an old tree stump.
No matter where a solitary female bee nests, these steps happen:

1. The female bee creates a chamber or protective cell where she can safely lay an egg.
2. She prepares a ball of pollen mixed with nectar in each cell to feed her offspring.
3. She lays an egg on each ball, seals up the nest, and then leaves the nest.
4. When the eggs hatch, out come tiny larvae (the beginning growth stage of a bee).
The larvae feed on pollen and grow bigger.
5. When the larvae have grown big enough, they undergo **metamorphosis**, a word that means a change in shape. The bee larvae slowly change from immature grubs to adult bees. Just like caterpillars, some bees spin silk cocoons as they go through this process.



We must protect wild bees nests so that bees can thrive (live healthy lives) and can pollinate more food.

