

HoustonNativeBees.org

Bee Metamorphosis Game

K – 5th Grade (I've also done this with middle school groups!)

Bees have complete metamorphosis with four stages of life: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. This game teaches students about life cycles of bees, but can be modified to teach butterfly stages: egg, caterpillar, chrysalis (cocoon), and butterfly.

In this game, students act out each transformation:

1. Everyone starts off as an egg and crouches down
2. Each student plays rock-paper-scissors with another student who is in the same stage.

The winner progresses to the next stage! The student who does not win stays at that stage. Both students find another person in their stage to continue moving through the stages.

3. In the larva stage, bees do not have legs so students “walk” on their knees.
4. In the pupa stage, bees have legs so students walk around with arms crossed across their chest.
5. In the adult stage, students “fly” with their new wings.
6. After the adult stage, students become an egg again so the cycle continues.

Optional:

If you want to include visuals, I like these pictures of bee metamorphosis from the wonderful Jha Lab at the University of Texas. I print them and make cards to show kids each stage.

<http://w3.biosci.utexas.edu/jha/wp-content/uploads/Bee-metamorphosis.jpg>