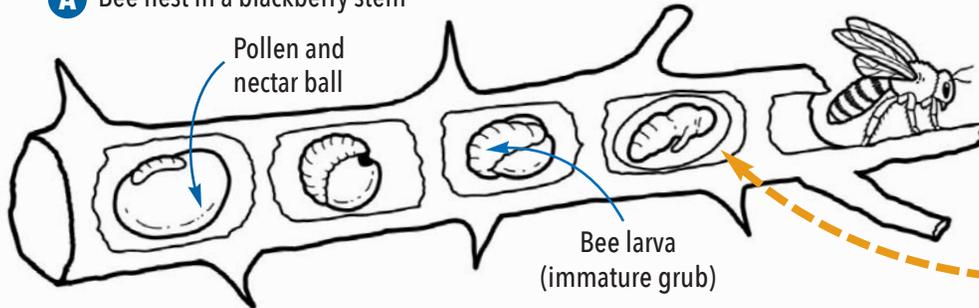


## Solitary bees are bees that live alone – not in a hive or with other bees.

Mason, leafcutter, long-horned bees, and alkali bees are some examples of solitary bees. Most bees found in Oregon are solitary bees. After mating, a solitary female bee, all on her own, will build her nest, forage for pollen and nectar, and lay her eggs. The solitary female bees below are making their nests in three different places: (A) a plant stem, (B) a tunnel in the ground, and (C) an old tree stump.

# Solitary Bees

**A** Bee nest in a blackberry stem



Bee cocoon

No matter where a solitary female bee nests, these steps happen:

1. The female bee creates a chamber or cell where she can safely lay an egg.
2. In any chamber she creates, she mixes a ball of pollen and nectar to feed her offspring.
3. She lays an egg on each ball, seals up the nest, and then leaves.
4. When an egg hatches, out comes a tiny larva (the first growth stage of a bee). The larvae all feed on their pollen balls 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 spin silk cocoons before they go through this process.
6. When the adult bees come out of their cells, males and females will mate with bees from other nests. Mated females start new nests of their own.



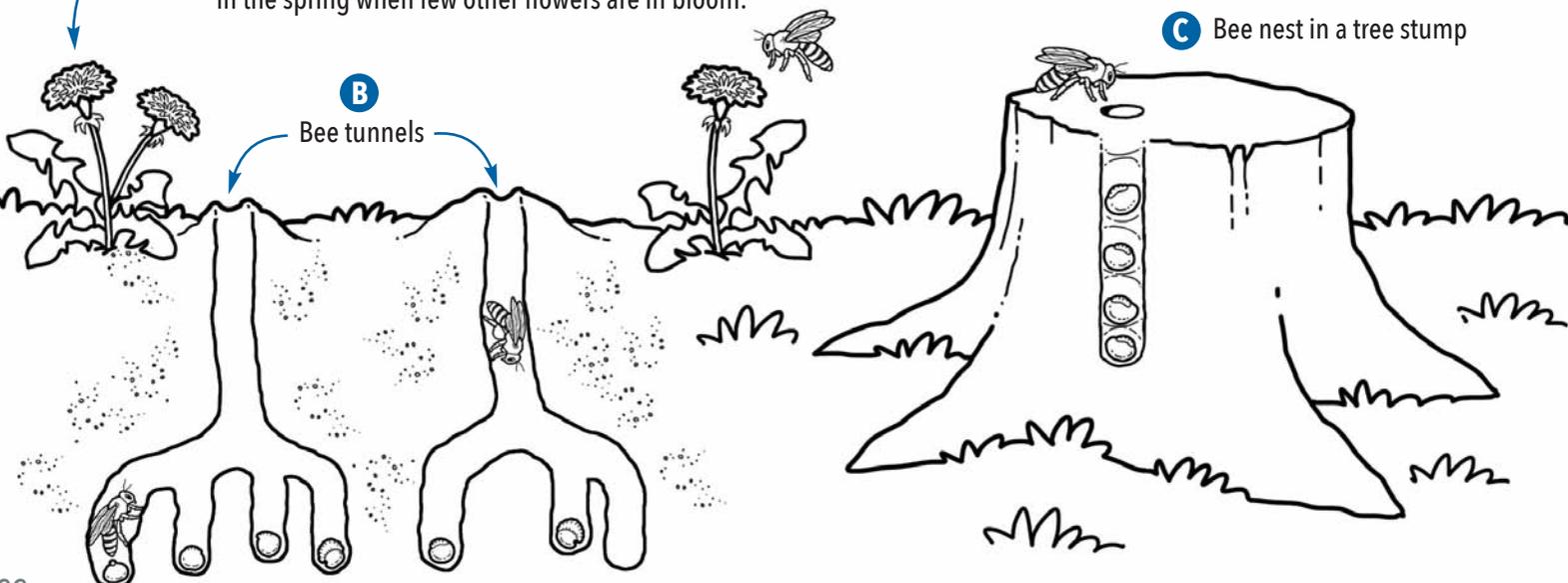
We must protect wild bees' nests so that bees can thrive (live healthy lives) and pollinate our food.

### Common dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*)

Some species of dandelion are native to North America. The common dandelion, however, is not. European colonizers brought it with them. Indigenous People then and now use the sweet and tender young leaves, stems and roots of dandelions medicinally and for foods such as tea and salads. Dandelions are also an important food source for bees early in the spring when few other flowers are in bloom.

**B**

Bee tunnels



**C** Bee nest in a tree stump