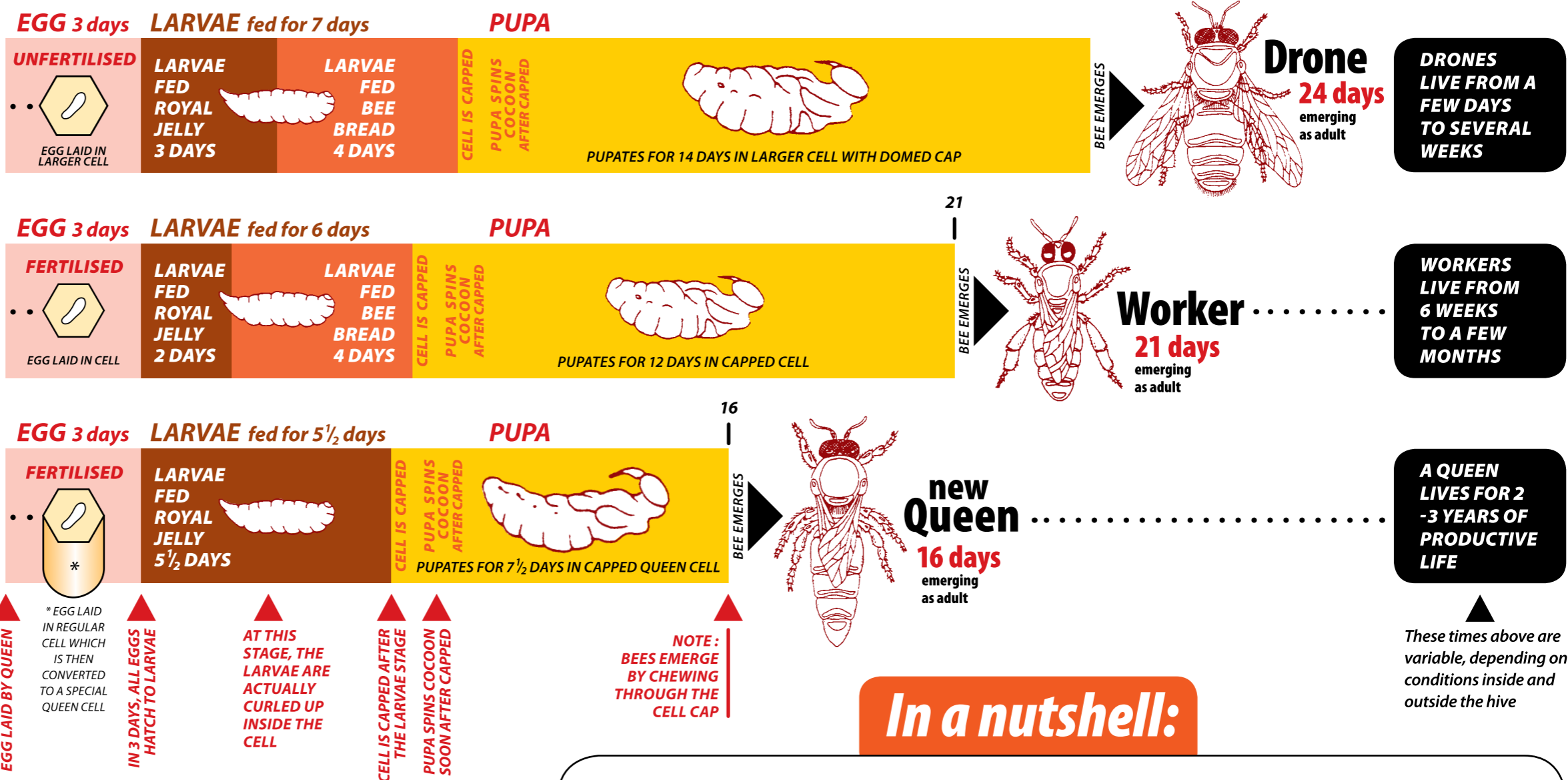
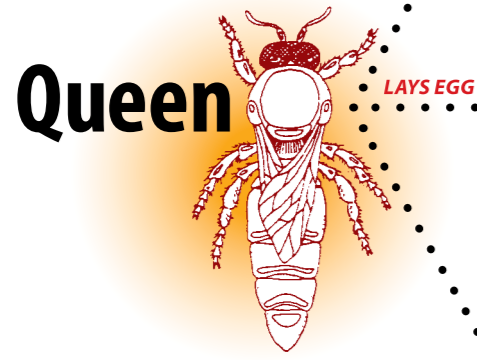
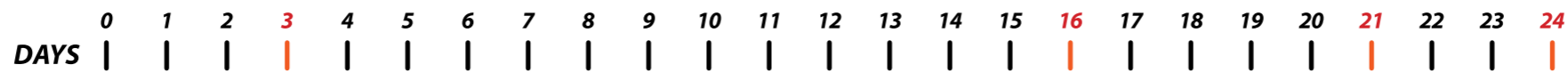
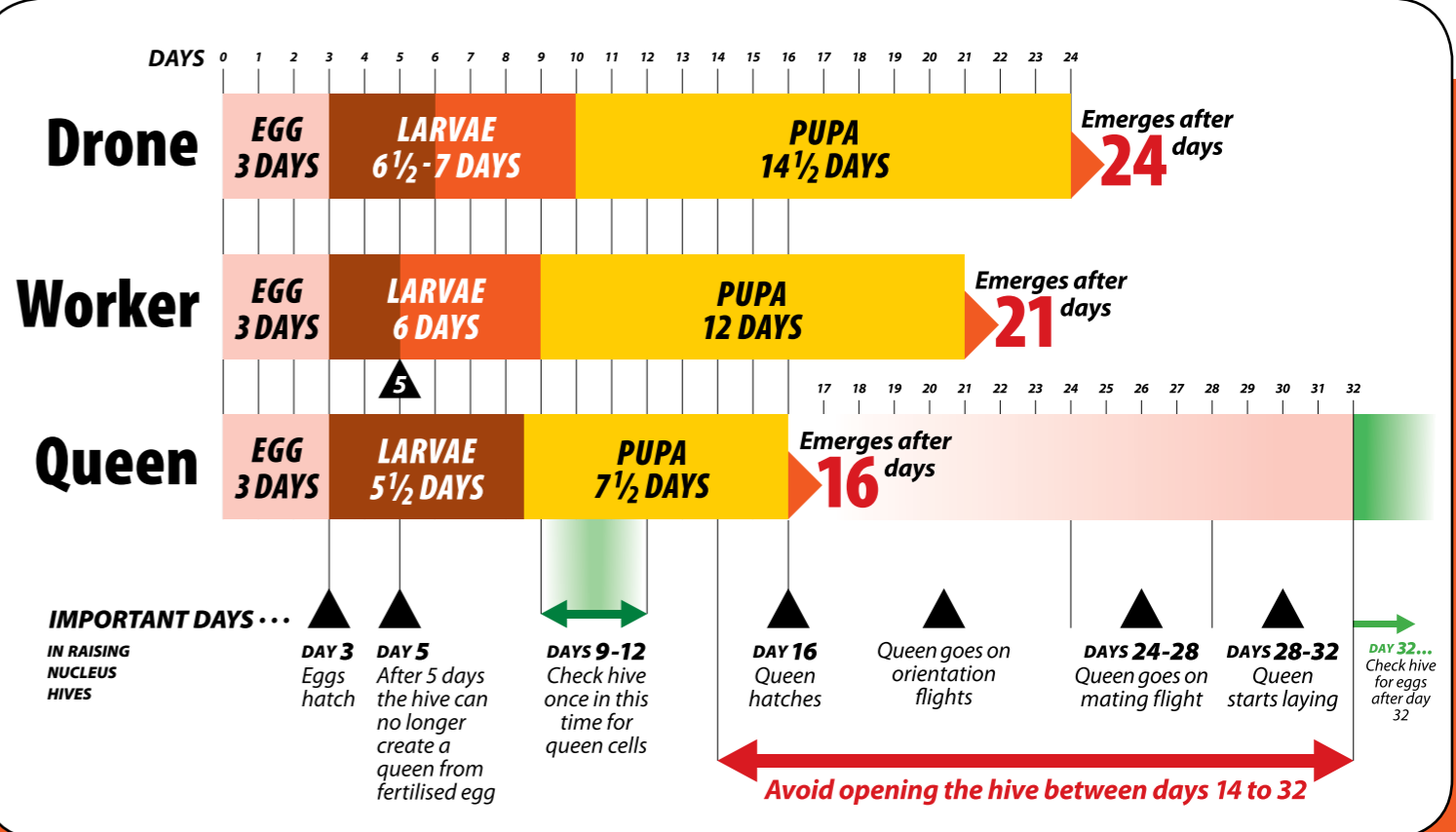


the complete bee life cycle



In a nutshell:



- During the six days that worker bee larvae is fed, each individual larvae will be visited between 8,000-10,000 times!
 - When the queen dies, and there are no eggs/larvae to raise as a new queen, worker bees may lay eggs (from which only drones hatch since they will be unfertilised). A worker bee is capable of laying 28 eggs in her lifetime.
- The life of a worker bee:**
- Up to day three - clean out the cells in the hive.
 - From day four - as a house bee - feed the older larvae with bee bread, and do orientation flights outside the hive.
 - From day seven - maxillary glands develop, so able to secrete royal jelly, begin to feed royal jelly to queen and larvae.
 - Day 12 to day 18 - house bees develop special wax glands (located on the last four segments of the abdomen) and produce wax scales* (flakes), and work on building comb. During this time, bees also guard the hive, examine the nectar, and help keep the brood warm.
 - Day 15 to 18 - worker bees start taking on their most responsible job - as field bees, out foraging for and collecting nectar and pollen. They continue with this until they wear themselves out, or are taken by one of the many bee-eaters.
- * Note: There are around 4 million scales of beeswax required to make 1 kilo. 50 scales are required to build a single cell.

This info taken from *Bees and People* by Naum Ioyrich
This diagram taken from www.aboutbees.com

