



# The Bees and the Bees

A number pattern in nature

Honeybees reproduce in a very interesting way. There are three kinds of honeybees:

1. Queen: this is the only female bee that can lay eggs.
2. Worker: this is a female bee that lays no eggs.
3. Drone: these are male bees.

Where do these three bees come from?

1. A queen comes from a fertilized egg, and becomes a queen in a special way.
2. A worker comes from a fertilized egg (so all females do)
3. A drone comes from an unfertilized egg, so has no father!

Thus: all females have two parents, but males have only one!

Questions.

1. How many parents does a male have?
2. How many grandparents?
3. How many great-grandparents?
4. How many great-great-grandparents?

Do you see a pattern?

5. Repeat #1-4 for females.