

# ALL ABOUT ANTS

March, lift, and work together with  
some of the tiniest builders on Earth!

A NONFICTION UNIT



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## MEET THE ANTS!

**Ants** are tiny—but don't be fooled! They are strong, smart, and always work together. If you drop a crumb of bread, watch closely... here they come! One ant finds it, and soon a whole line follows!





## WHAT ANTS ARE LIKE

Ants are **insects**, which means they have six legs and three body parts: head, thorax, and abdomen. They also have **antennae** that help them smell, touch, and talk to each other. Ants don't have ears or lungs—they feel vibrations and breathe through tiny holes in their bodies!



## WHERE ANTS LIVE

Ants live almost everywhere on Earth—except the coldest places. They build nests underground, inside tree trunks, or even under rocks. Some ants make big hills of soil called **anthills**, while others live in walls or logs.

## BUSY ANT JOBS

Ants live in **colonies** where everyone has a job! The **queen ant** lays all the **eggs**. The **worker ants** collect food, care for young ants, and build the nest. The soldier ants guard the **colony** and keep it safe from enemies.



# FROM EGG TO ANT

All ants begin life as tiny **eggs**. Each **egg** hatches into a **larva**, which looks like a little worm. The **larva** spins a cocoon around itself and becomes a **pupa**. After a while, a grown ant crawls out—ready to work!



## TEAMWORK TIME

Ants never work alone! They follow each other's **scent trails** to find food. When one ant finds something tasty, it leaves a trail for others to follow. Together, they can carry things much heavier than their own bodies!





## DINNERTIME FOR ANTS

Ants eat many different foods. Some like sweet things, such as fruit juice or honey. Others eat seeds, plants, or even other insects. They share food with each other by passing it mouth to mouth.





## ANTS AT WORK AND PLAY

Ants are always on the move—digging tunnels, finding food, and protecting their queen. Sometimes, they climb plants or explore cracks in walls, always curious and busy. They may be small, but they're mighty!

## DID YOU KNOW?

- There are more than 12,000 kinds of ants around the world!
- Some ants look after tiny insects called aphids, the way farmers care for cows! The ants keep the aphids safe, and the aphids give the ants a tasty, sugary treat.



# QUESTION TIME!

1. (True or False) Ants are mammals.
2. (True or False) Ants have six legs.
3. (True or False) Only queen ants lay eggs.
4. (Fact or Opinion) Ants live in colonies.
5. (Fact or Opinion) Ants are the busiest animals in the world.
6. How do ants work together to find food?
7. Where do ants build their nests?
8. What jobs do worker ants do?
9. What do ants eat?
10. What do you find most interesting about ants?



# ANSWERS

1. False. Ants are insects, not mammals.
2. True. All ants have six legs.
3. True. The queen ant lays all the eggs.
4. Fact. Ants really do live in colonies.
5. Opinion. "Ants are the busiest animals in the world" is what someone thinks or feels.
6. They follow scent trails and help each other carry food.
7. They build nests underground, in trees, or under rocks.
8. Worker ants collect food, take care of young ants, and build tunnels.
9. Ants eat sweets, seeds, plants, and sometimes other insects.
10. Answers will vary—some might say their teamwork, tunnels, or strength!



# GLOSSARY

**Antennae** - feelers on an ant's head used to smell, touch, and communicate

**Anthill** - a pile of soil built by ants as part of their nest

**Colony** - a large group of ants living and working together

**Egg** - the first stage in an ant's life cycle

**Insect** - a small animal with six legs and three body parts

**Larva** - the worm-like young stage of an insect

**Pupa** - the stage between larva and adult when the insect changes shape

**Queen ant** - the leader of the colony who lays eggs

**Scent trail** - a smell ants leave to help others find their way

**Worker ant** - an ant that gathers food and cares for the nest



## FUN WITH ANTS

*Q: What do you call an ant who skips school?*

*A: A truant!*