

All About Ants



Ants are busy animals that work hard. They are a type of **insect**. Insects are animals that have six legs.

Ants are amazing! Although ants are small, they are strong! An ant can carry things that weigh 30 times as much as its own body. If you were that strong, you could carry a small car!

Ants live in large groups called **colonies**. Some colonies are made up of millions of ants. Different members of a colony have different jobs. Three main types of ants live in a colony. Learn about each type of ant.

Male ants help the queen make eggs so that new ants will be born. There are a few males in a colony. Male ants are small, and some have wings.

Queen ants lay eggs. There is usually only one queen in each ant colony. Most queen ants are larger than the other ants in a colony.

Worker ants build the nest, search for food, and take care of baby ants. There are many workers in each ant colony. Worker ants are small and are always female.

Interesting Insect Facts



USDA.com

A **leaf-cutting ant** uses leaves to make a tent for shelter.

Check out these interesting animals!



USDA.com

Ladybugs come in different colors, and most have dots.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A **praying mantis** has razor-sharp spikes on its front legs.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. According to the passage, what makes ants amazing?

2. Where do ants live?

3. According to the passage, how do different types of ants contribute to the colony they live in?

4. What is this passage mostly about?

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

Every day, leaf-cutting ants make a tent for shelter by using leaves.

What is the subject of this sentence? leaf-cutting ants

5. What do leaf-cutting ants do?

6. When?

7. How?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

There are many female ants in a colony _____ only a few males.

- A but
- B because
- C so

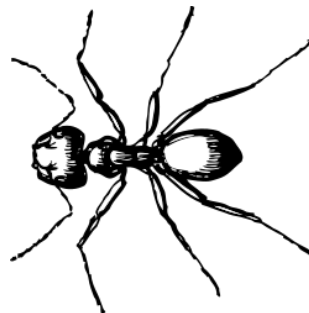
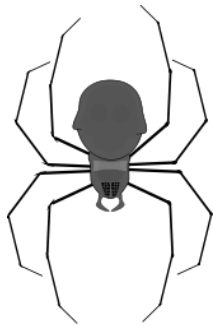
Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **insect** (in · sect): an animal that has six legs.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **insect**.

- a. A ladybug is an insect that often has dots on it.
- b. Butterflies are insects that fly south for the winter.
- c. An insect that has six legs and flies is a bee.
- d. There are many insects living in North America.
- e. Some insects, such as wasps, sting people.

10. Which image shows an insect?



Teacher Guide and Answer Key

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 600

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive - the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The passage is focused on ants. Ants are small but strong. There are many types of ants, and they have different jobs.

To the Teacher: Read the passage aloud to the class [TIP: while reading aloud, show the passage on a whiteboard or give students copies of the passage so that they can follow along].

Then, use the text-dependent questions 1-8 to facilitate a whole class discussion to ensure students comprehend the key details from the passage.

Finally, use questions 9-10 to deep teach one important vocabulary word [TIP: you can use the model provided for teaching additional vocabulary].

1. According to the passage, what makes ants amazing? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: Ants are small but very strong. [paragraph 2]

2. Where do ants live? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: Ants live in large groups called colonies. [paragraph 3]

3. According to the passage, how do different types of ants contribute to the colony they live in? [Important Detail]

Suggested answer: The three types of ants are male ants, queen ants, and worker ants. Male ants help the queen make eggs. Queen ants lay eggs. Worker ants build the nest, search for food, and take care of baby ants. [paragraphs 4, 5, 6]

4. What is this passage mostly about? [Main Idea]

Suggested answer: The article is focused on different types of ants and how

they live and function. There are three types of ants: male ants, queen ants, and worker ants.

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

Every day, leaf-cutting ants make a tent for shelter by using leaves.

What is the subject of this sentence? leaf-cutting ants

5. What do leaf-cutting ants do? **make a tent for shelter**
6. When? **every day**
7. How? **by using leaves**
8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

There are many female ants in a colony _____ only a few males.

A but

B because

C so

To the Teacher: ReadWorks recommends that you teach this vocabulary word to the whole class out loud using the four steps listed below.

Vocabulary Word: **insect** (in · sect): an animal that has six legs.

Step 1: Introduce the word

- a. Teacher writes the word on the board and divides it into syllables: (in · sect)
- b. Teacher says: "This word is insect. What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Insect."]

Step 2: Provide a child-friendly definition

- a. Teacher says: "An insect is an animal that has six legs."

- b. Teacher says: "The word insect is used when talking about an animal that has six legs. In this passage, the author writes that ants are a type of insect."
- c. Teacher says: "What is the word?" [All students reply together out loud: "Insect."]

Step 3: Practice the word

Teacher provides examples and additional opportunities to repeat the word. Read the first sentence out loud to your students. Begin reading it again, and when you come to the vocabulary word, prompt students to say the vocabulary word out loud. Then, finish reading the sentence out loud to your students.

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **insect** (in · sect): an animal that has six legs.

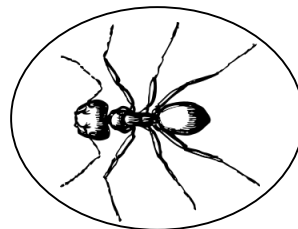
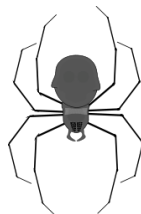
9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **insect**.

- a. A ladybug is an insect that often has dots on it.
- b. Butterflies are insects that fly south for the winter.
- c. An insect that has six legs and flies is a bee.
- d. There are many insects living in North America.
- e. Some insects, such as wasps, sting people.

Step 4: Check for student understanding

To the Teacher: This step can be completed as a whole class activity or as an independent practice.

10. Which image shows an insect?



Suggested Additional Vocabulary: colony, spike