

All About Ants

Where Ants Live

You can find ants almost anywhere you go. There are some places you won't find ants. Ants do not live where the climate is very cold, such as the Arctic. Some high mountains do not have ants either. Scientists think there could be about 20,000 different kinds of ants. That's a lot of ants!

Ants are very social and cannot survive alone. They live together with other ants in large groups called colonies. Some colonies could have one million ants in them. Every colony has at least one queen and lots of worker ants. Ants work as a team. Every ant has a job to do.

Ants live in nests. Ant nests can be found underground, and some nests are above the ground. The nests above the ground look like mounds of dirt or sand. Other ants live in trees. Some ants nest in wood.



An ant nest

Ants' Bodies

Ants only have three body parts, which are the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. The head has the mouth, eyes, and antennae. All six legs are attached to the middle part, the thorax. The stomach is in the last part called the abdomen. Some ants have stingers on the end of their abdomens for protection.

Ants talk to each other through touch. They touch each other with their antennae. They also leave scent trails so other ants can follow their movements. Ants can see, but they cannot see very well. Since ants do not have ears, they hear by feeling vibrations. They use their feet to hear the vibrations in the ground.

Ants are very strong insects, and they can carry very heavy items. Ants have strong legs and jaws. Sometimes, a group of ants will carry a heavy item together.



What Ants Do

Ants can be very annoying, but they are not worthless. Ants can help the environment, too. They loosen the soil as they make tunnels. This helps fruits, vegetables, and other plants grow better. Some ants eat insects that are harmful, too.

Ants eat many different things. Many animals, such as birds and frogs, eat ants. Spiders also eat ants. In certain countries, people even eat ants.

Some people like to observe ants in ant farms. Ant farms let people see how ants make tunnels. Ant farms are enclosed in glass or plastic, with a special soil or gel inside. Ants can also be observed outdoors. Regardless of how ants are observed, they are interesting creatures.

