All About Ants

By: Connor Boyle

Ants are amazing creatures. Did you know ants can carry up to fifty times their own weight? That is equivalent to a human carrying a bus! They also help out with the ecosystem, to make sure that the local species aren’t going to die a lot. They are pretty much the dominate species for insects including tarantulas, bees, wasps, and more. A group of ants is called a colony. Ants depend on queens for survival. If there is no queen in the colony then the colony will die within a few months. Ants are very fascinating.

Ants are very tough. They can kill many different insects that are invasive or that try to attack the ant colony. They can also make sure that certain insects that damage houses and property like termites, cockroaches, spiders, and rats are eradicated. They also can help certain types of plants not rot. For example, ants will pick the fruit that is about to spoil and bring it back to the colony for the colony to eat. This helps limit food waste. Ants survival depends a lot on communication so they know where the enemy or the food source is located.

Ants are very social creatures. They pass something called pheromones which they release when they find something interesting or if they are being attacked. When they get attacked, they spread the pheromones to the other ants and those ants alert the soldier, ants which will try to drive the invaders out. They will also tell other worker ants in the colony. The response to the invaders depends on the ant species. For example, weaver worker ants will shoot acid from their abdomens which will burn the other ants. On the other hand, western harvester ants will all get near food storages, the queen, and where the eggs are and try to protect them.

Therefore, ant colonies have at least one queen. Every queen has one purpose in the whole ant kingdom, and that is to lay eggs. A queen can lay hundreds of eggs each day! The egg may become a nursing ant, which takes care of the eggs, a worker ant, which digs tunnels and gathers food for the ants, or a soldier ant, which protects the colony and attacks enemies. All these eggs will be female ants. Once ants are born they are taken care of by nursing ants until they are about 2 weeks old. Then it is off to work for the ants!

Ants are very cool in so many ways. They can lift a tremendous amount of weight and some of them can even shoot acid. They also have very good social skills. There are many different species of ants that are unique. Ants can do marvelous things in the world. Next time you see an ant take a closer look and you may just see them do something amazing!