

# Ants Are Busy



by Margaret Gallo  
illustrated by Reggie Holladay

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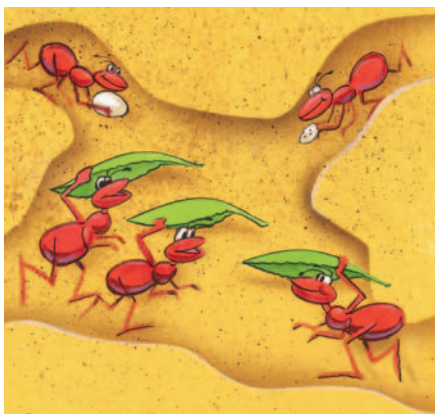
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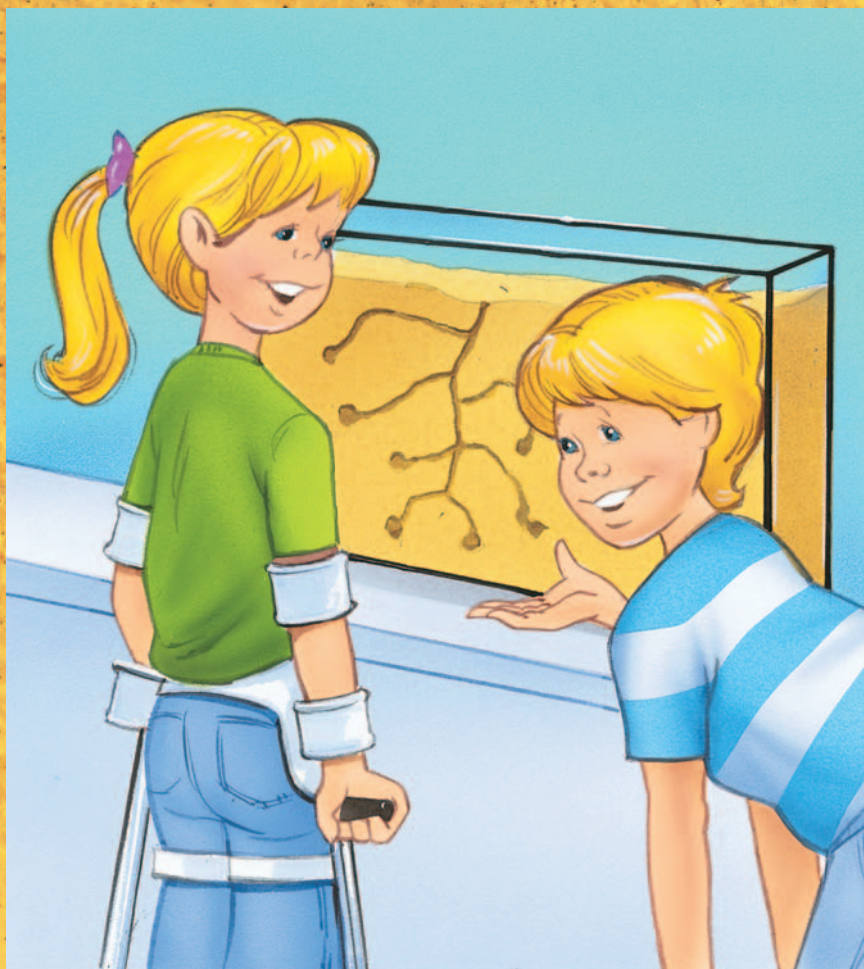


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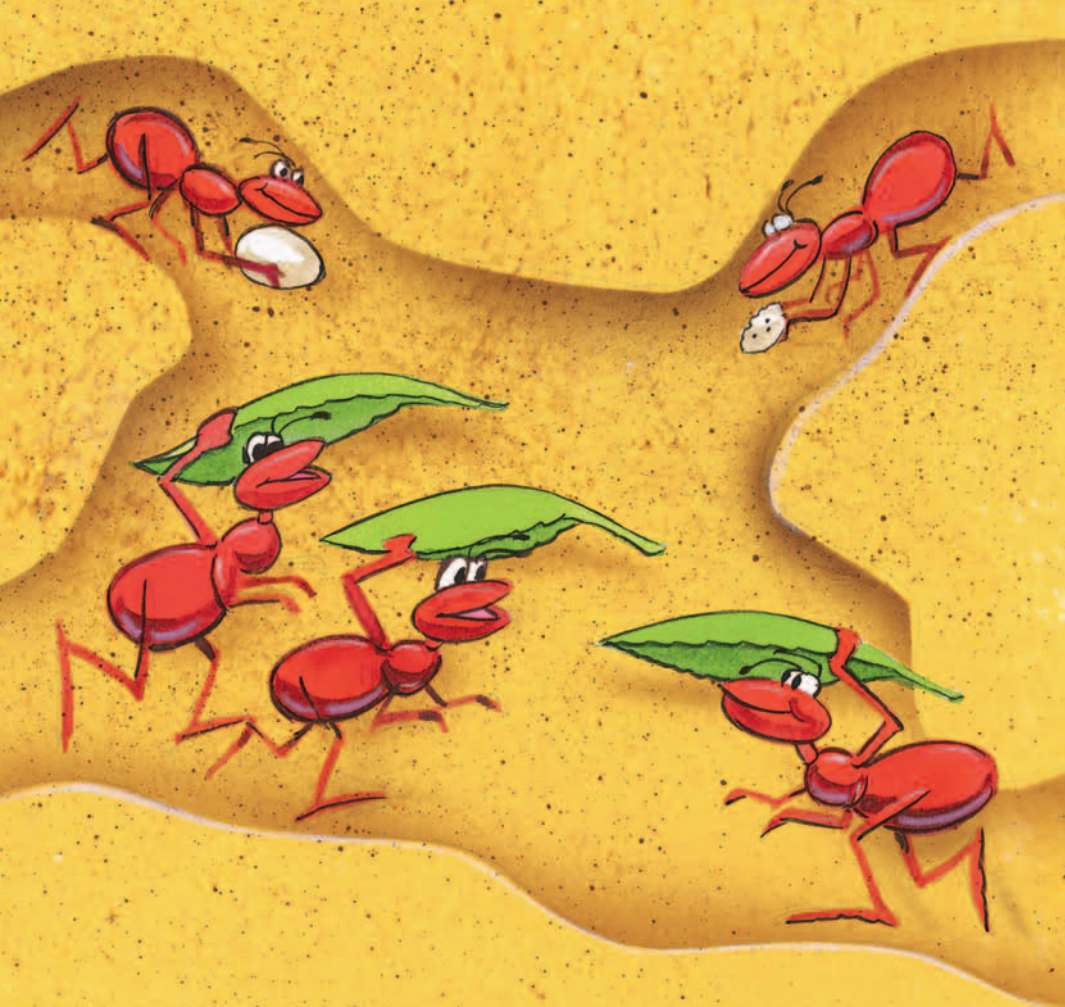
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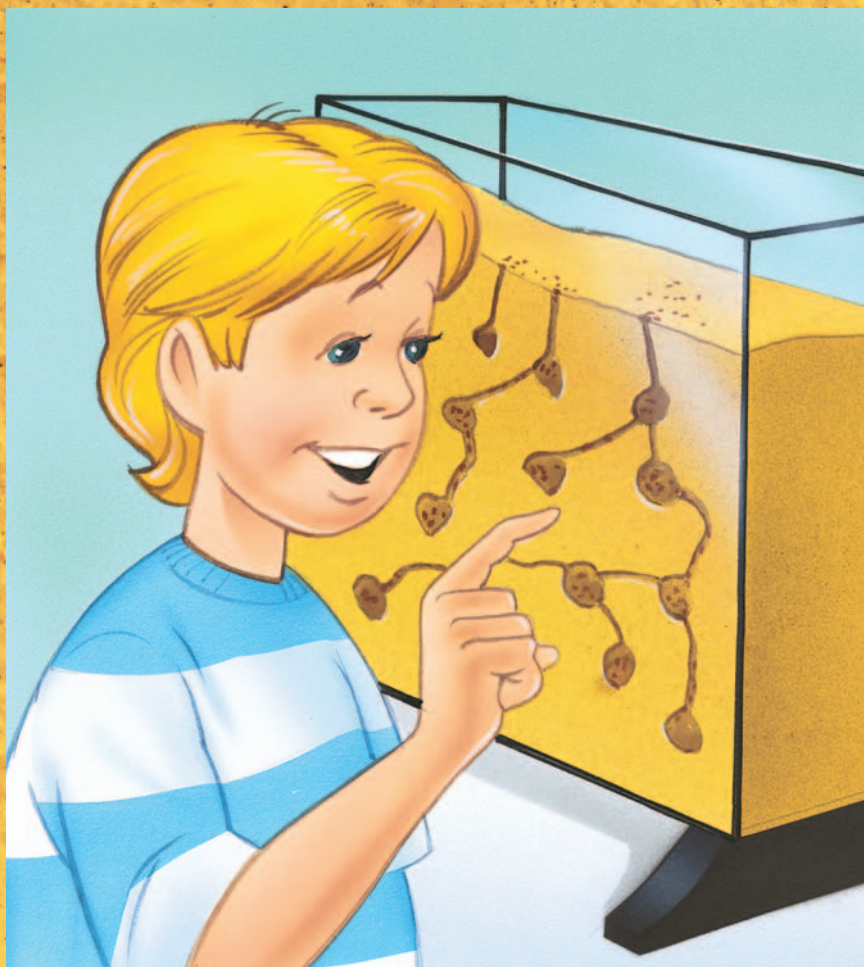


▶ Jeff looked at Rose's ant farm.  
Some ants were in the sand.  
"It's a home for ants," he said.

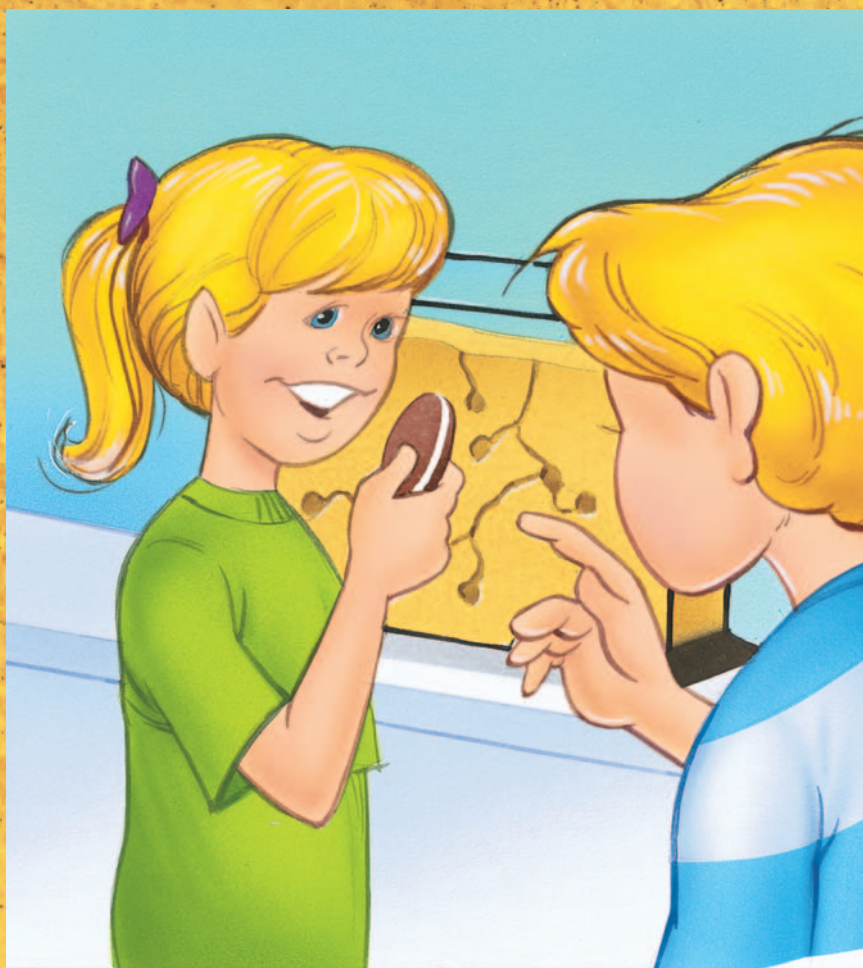


“They eat and they work,”  
said Rose. “They lay eggs  
and dig tunnels.”



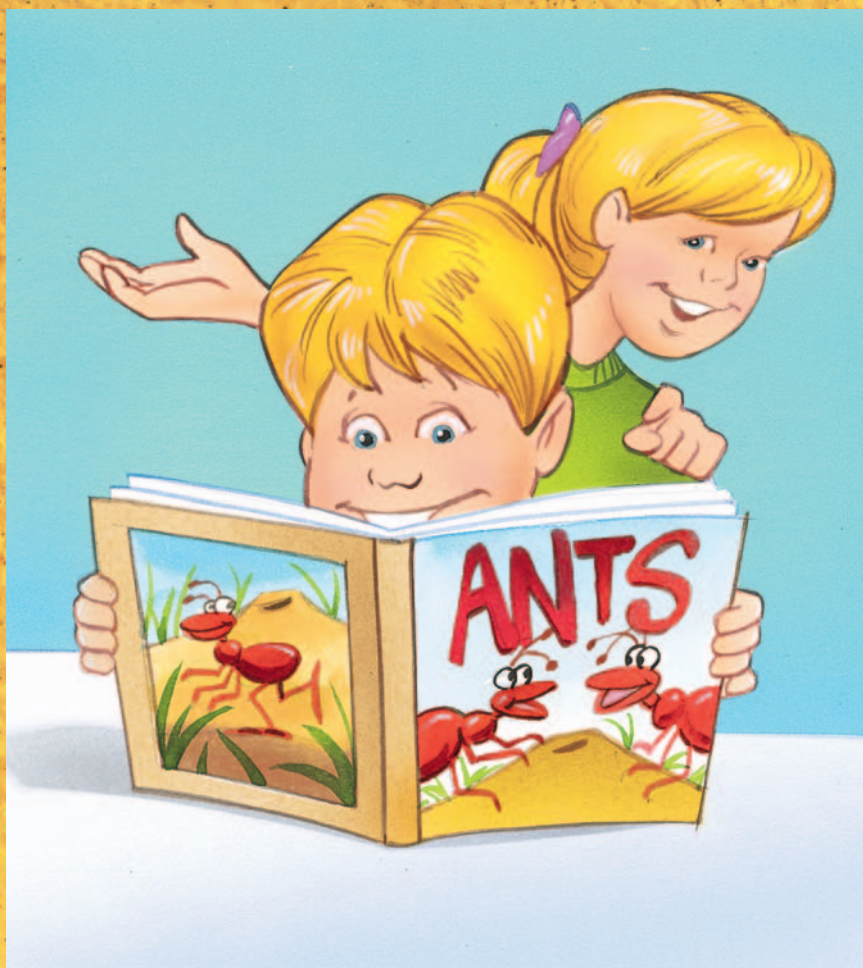


▶ Jeff counted twelve little rooms off the tunnels. "It looks like they have food in the little rooms," he said.



- “Ants like sweets,” Rose said.  
“I feed them bits of cookie.”
- “Don’t touch that cookie!”  
she said. “That’s for my ants.”





🔊 Jeff got a book about ants. “I’m going to see what ants eat in the wild,” he said. “Ants like to eat bugs and leaves.”





- “Do ants have a place for trash?” asked Jeff.
- “Yes,” said Rose. “They have another place for baby ants.”



Jeff poked his nose in his ant book. “Only the queen lays eggs. She puts them in a special place.”



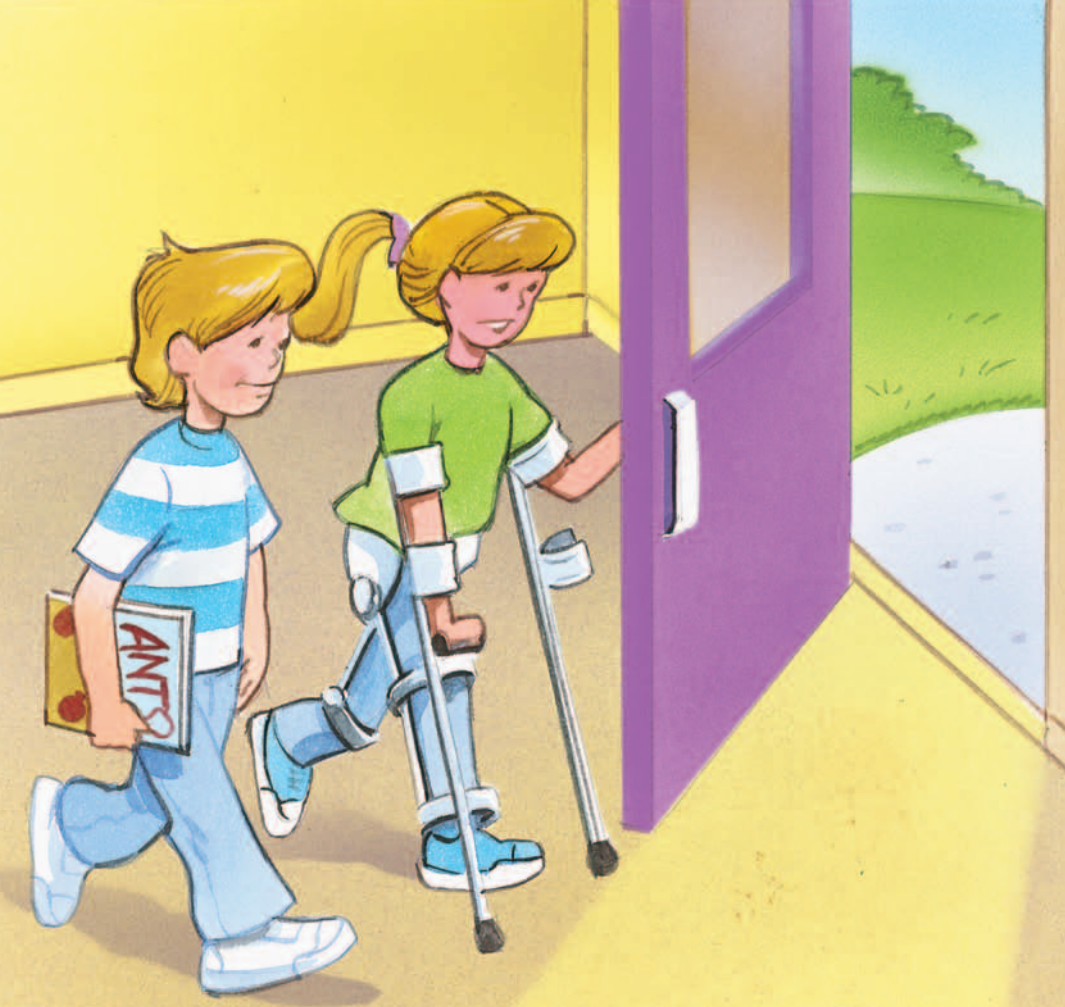


■ “After she lays the eggs, they change their form. The queen ant takes care of them until they hatch.”



🔊 “The worker ants take care of the queen. They bring her food and wait for the eggs to hatch.”





🔊 Rose said, “Come on. Let’s go out to the field. I hope to get some leaves to feed the ants.”








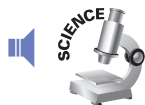
🔊 “Ants are fun to look at,”  
said Jeff.

🔊 “Yes,” said Rose. “I’m glad  
that you like them too.”



## **Think and Respond**

-  **1** What is this story mostly about?
-  **2** What kinds of things do ants eat?
-  **3** Which ant lays all the eggs?
-  **4** Why do you think the workers help the queen ant?
-  **5** How are ants like people?



**My Ant Book** Make a book about an ant colony. Draw many little rooms, and show where the queen ant stays.



**School-Home Connection** Go on a nature hike with a family member. Look for ant hills. Leave some cookie crumbs by the ant hills. Watch to see if the ants carry the crumbs back to their nest.



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