

Reading Passage: The Busy Ants (Science 2)

Ants are tiny insects that live in colonies underground. They are very organized and work together to build their homes, find food, and take care of their young.

Each ant in a colony has a specific job to do. Some ants are workers who gather food such as leaves, seeds, and other insects. They use their strong jaws to carry food back to the colony. Other ants are builders who construct tunnels and chambers underground using bits of soil and plant materials.

The queen ant is the largest ant in the colony and has an important job. She lays eggs, which hatch into baby ants called larvae. Worker ants take care of the larvae by feeding them and keeping them safe.

Ants communicate with each other using chemicals called pheromones. They leave trails of pheromones to guide other ants to food sources or to warn them of danger. This helps the colony stay organized and work efficiently.

Ants are also known for their strength. Despite their small size, some ants can carry objects much heavier than themselves. They use their powerful jaws and teamwork to move larger items back to the colony.

Next time you see ants crawling on the ground, remember how busy and organized they are beneath the surface!

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Where do ants live?
 - A. In the trees
 - B. Underground
 - C. In the water
 - D. On flowers
2. What do worker ants gather as food?
 - A. Rocks
 - B. Leaves, seeds, and insects
 - C. Water
 - D. Sunshine
3. What do builder ants use to construct tunnels and chambers?
 - A. Clay
 - B. Sand
 - C. Bits of soil and plant materials
 - D. Wood
4. Who lays eggs in an ant colony?
 - A. Worker ants
 - B. Builder ants
 - C. Queen ant
 - D. Larvae
5. What are baby ants called?
 - A. Eggs
 - B. Queens
 - C. Workers
 - D. Larvae

6. How do ants communicate with each other?
 - A. By singing
 - B. By dancing
 - C. By using pheromones
 - D. By shouting
7. What do ants use pheromones for?
 - A. To build their homes
 - B. To sing songs
 - C. To communicate and guide other ants
 - D. To scare birds away
8. What is the queen ant's main job?
 - A. To gather food
 - B. To construct tunnels
 - C. To lay eggs
 - D. To fly
9. How do ants move larger objects?
 - A. By using wings
 - B. By digging tunnels
 - C. By carrying objects with their strong jaws and teamwork
 - D. By sleeping
10. Where do ants work together?
 - A. In the sky
 - B. Underground in their colony
 - C. On the beach
 - D. In the mountains

Answers and Explanations

1. **B. Underground** Explanation: Ants live underground in colonies.
2. **B. Leaves, seeds, and insects** Explanation: Worker ants gather leaves, seeds, and other insects as food.
3. **C. Bits of soil and plant materials** Explanation: Builder ants use bits of soil and plant materials to construct tunnels and chambers.
4. **C. Queen ant** Explanation: The queen ant lays eggs in an ant colony.
5. **D. Larvae** Explanation: Baby ants are called larvae.
6. **C. By using pheromones** Explanation: Ants communicate with each other by using pheromones.
7. **C. To communicate and guide other ants** Explanation: Ants use pheromones to communicate and guide other ants.
8. **C. To lay eggs** Explanation: The queen ant's main job is to lay eggs.
9. **C. By carrying objects with their strong jaws and teamwork** Explanation: Ants move larger objects by carrying them with their strong jaws and working together as a team.
10. **B. Underground in their colony** Explanation: Ants work together underground in their colony.