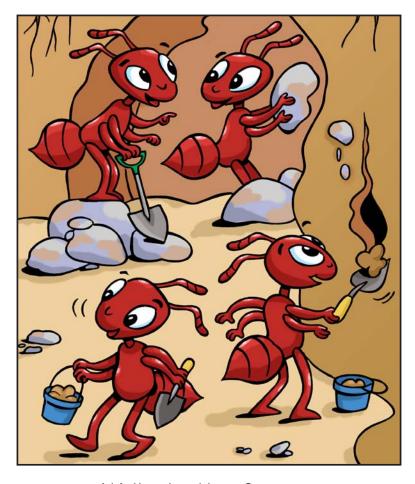


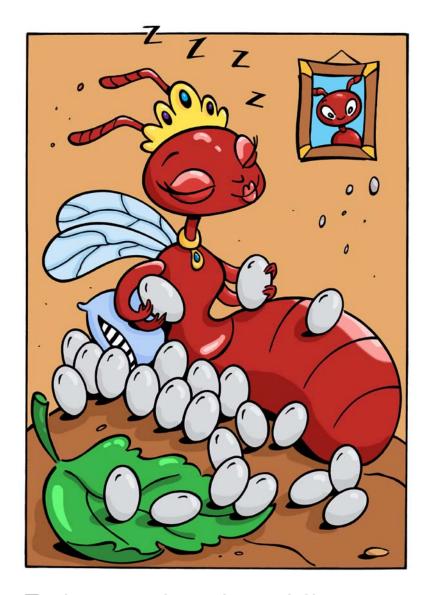
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The Queen Ant's Birthday



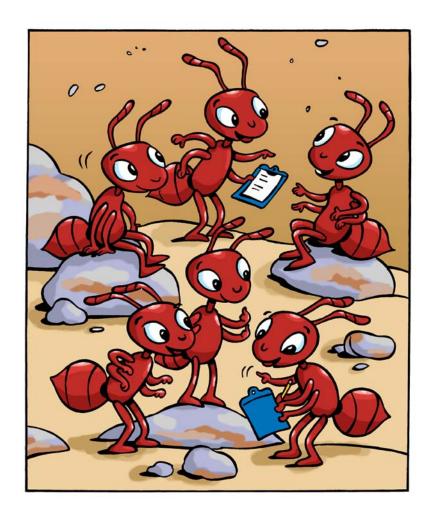
Written by Alyse Sweeney Illustrated by Nora Voutas

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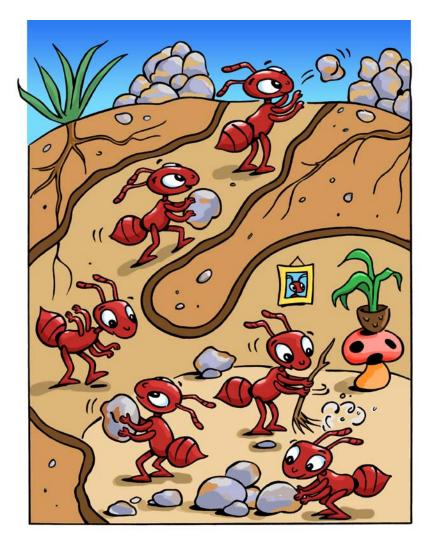
Today is a big day at the ant nest.

It's the queen ant's birthday!



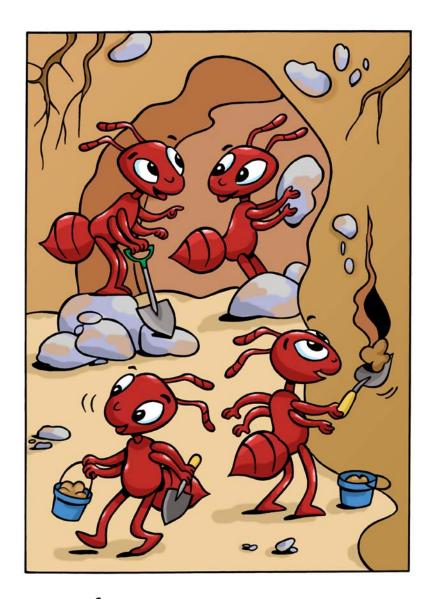
The ants have many jobs to do before the queen wakes up.

They will work together to surprise her with a party.

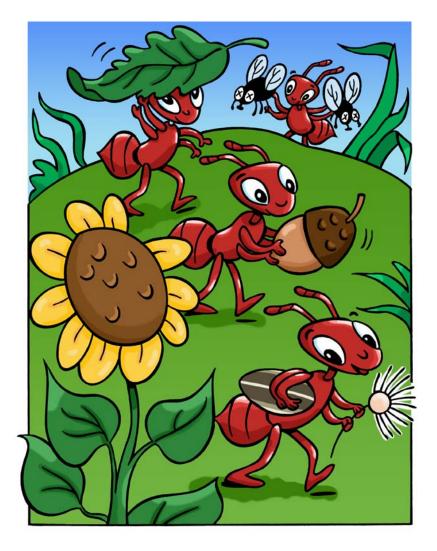


Some worker ants clean the nest.

They use their six legs to make the rooms neat.

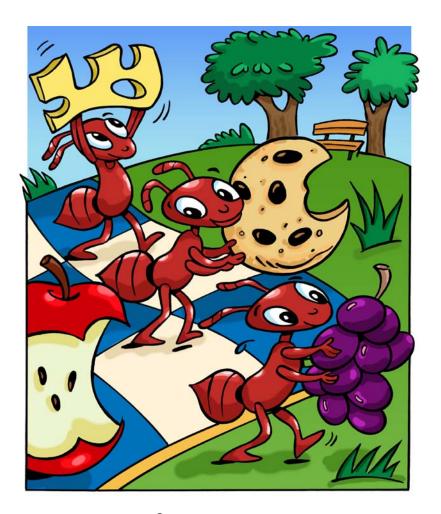


They fix cracks in the walls. They dig to make the rooms bigger.



Other workers go out to look for food.

They find tasty seeds, leaves, and a few dead flies.

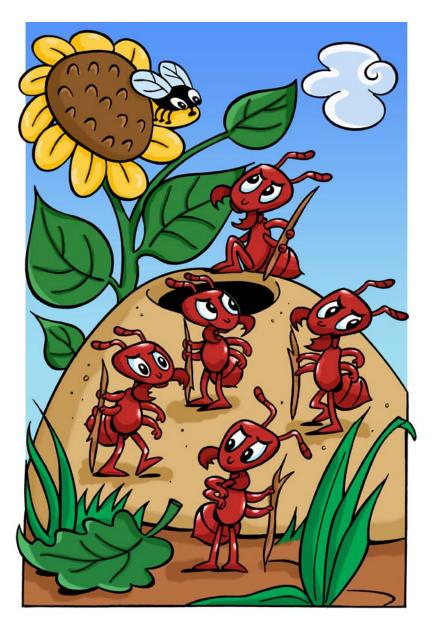


They also find a picnic that has the queen's favorite foods! The ants carry cookies, grapes, and cheese back to the nest.

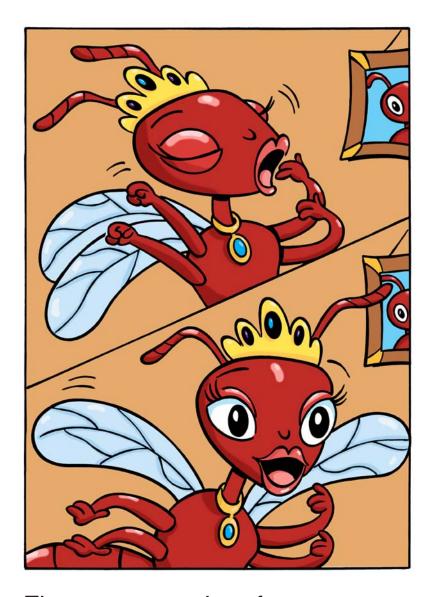


Back home, the strongest ants guard the nest.

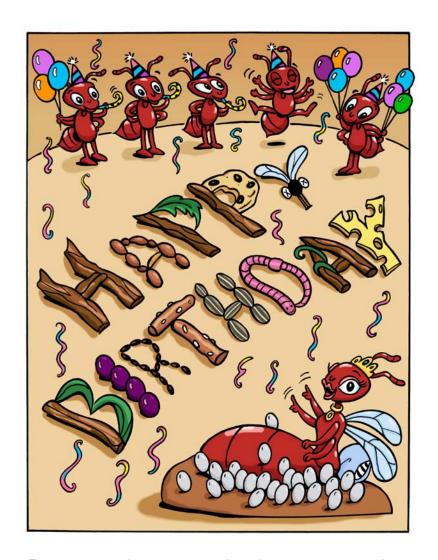
They can use their large jaws to fight.



Nothing will get by the ants on this special day.



The queen wakes from her nap.
What a surprise!



Do you know what surprised her the most?
She never knew her children could spell!

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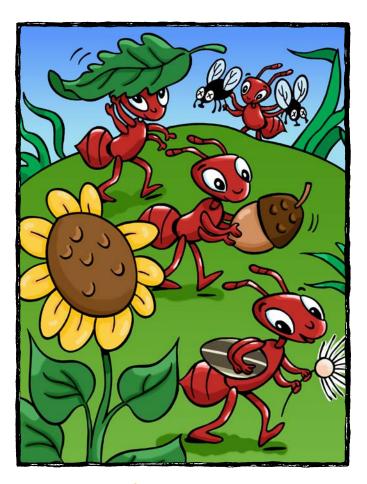
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