

LEVELED BOOK • H

What Built This?

**Multi
level
H•K•N**

Written by Marcie Aboff

www.readinga-z.com

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Focus Question

What are some reasons animals build?

Words to Know

builders

dens

chimney

prey

dams

silk

Front cover: A bird called the brown gardener builds a bower, then decorates it!

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Correlation

LEVEL H	
Fountas & Pinnell	H
Reading Recovery	13–14
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Animal Builders

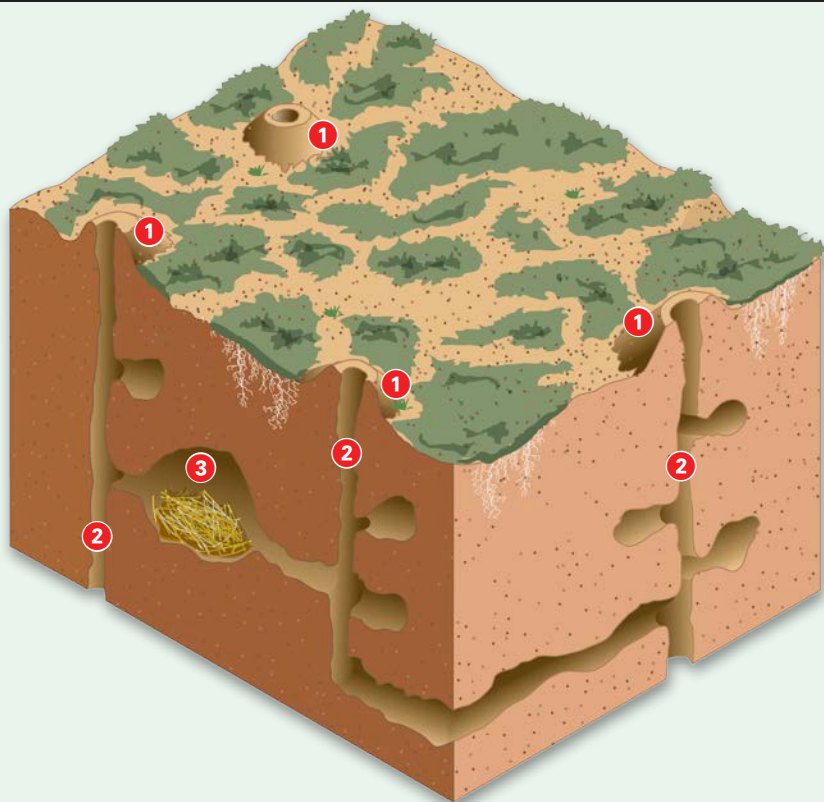
Not all **builders** are human.

Some builders are animals!

What do they build?



Male bowerbirds build the bower for females, then decorate it!



1 A family group has its own burrow with several ways in.

2 Air vents keep fresh air moving through the burrow.

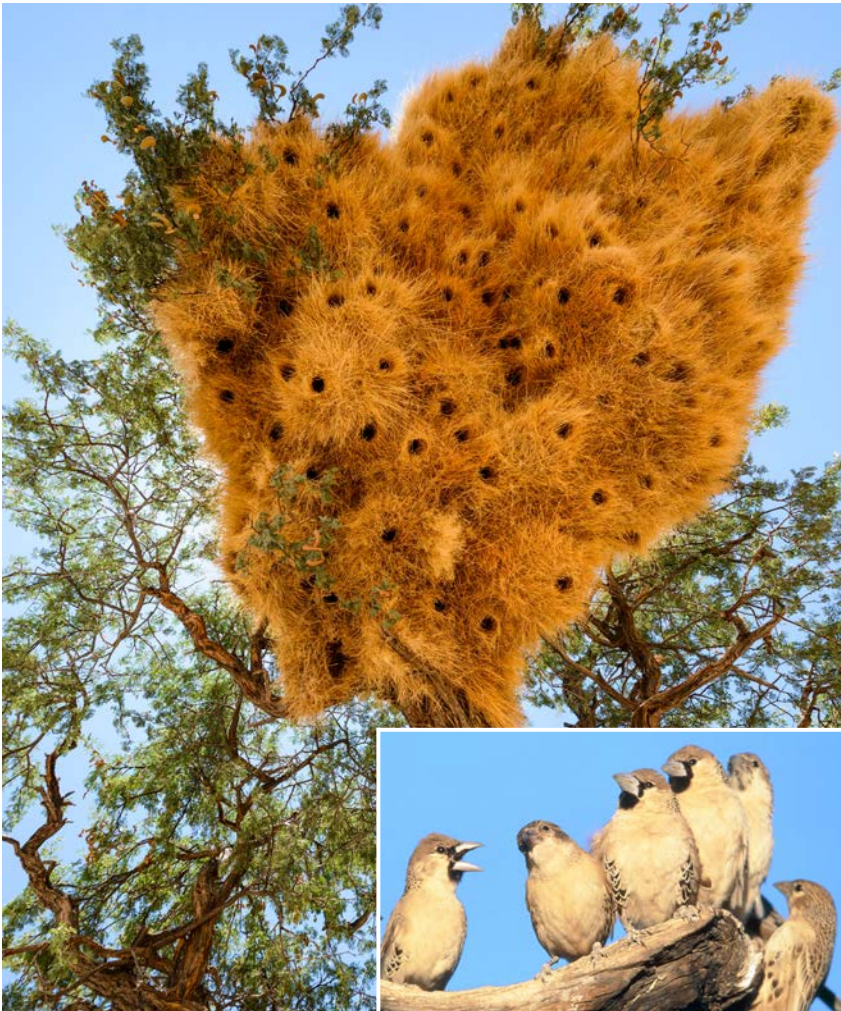
3 The bedroom is often deeper underground.

Prairie Dog Towns

These animals dig underground tunnels with rooms for eating and sleeping.



Prairie dogs are only found in North America.



Sociable weavers live in southern Africa.

Sociable Weaver Bird Nests

These birds make nests from sticks and grass.

One nest holds four hundred birds!

Termite Mounds

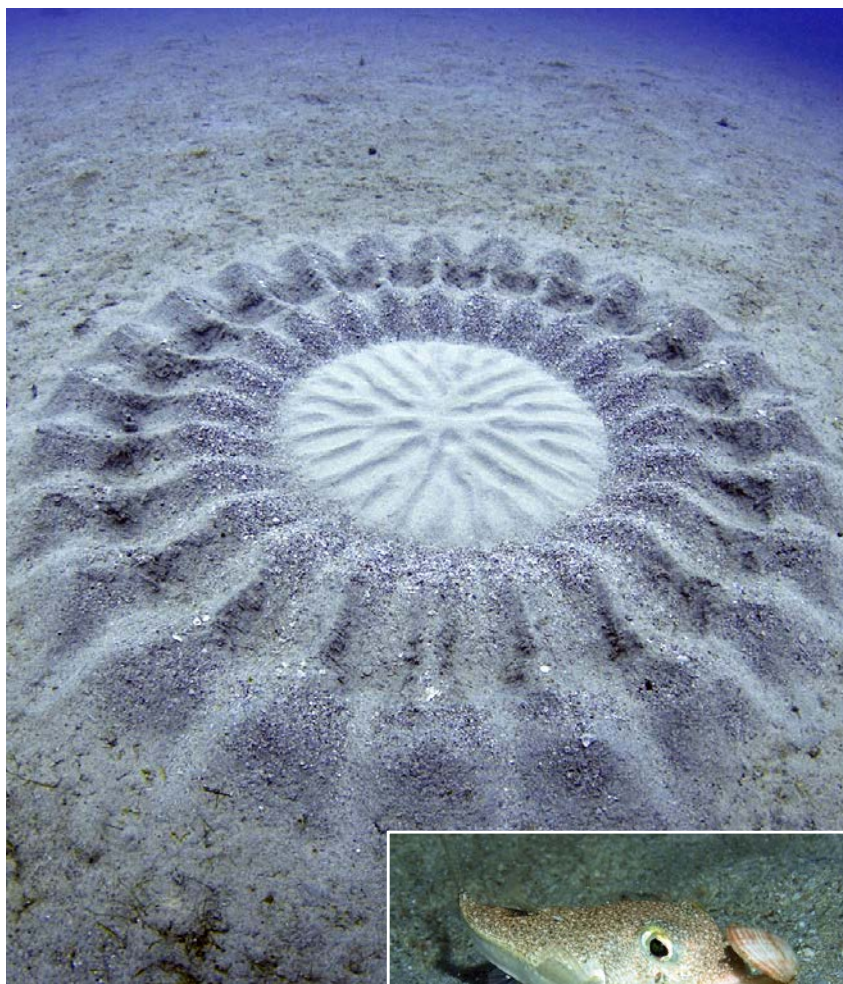
These little insects chew wood.
They build huge piles with the
wood and mud.



One Queen, 165 Million Eggs!

The king and queen termite live in a special room. The queen can produce thousands of eggs per day and can live up to age forty-five.





Ocean divers first noticed
"mystery circles" in 1995,
near Japan.



Pufferfish Circles

This male fish makes sand art
on the floor of the sea.

A female fish lays her eggs there.



A trapdoor spider darts from its mossy hiding place.

Spider Trapdoors

This spider digs a tunnel.

It makes a door with its **silk**.

The spider opens the door
and **prey** falls through.

Underground Ant City

Millions of ants build underground cities with tunnels that go all over.



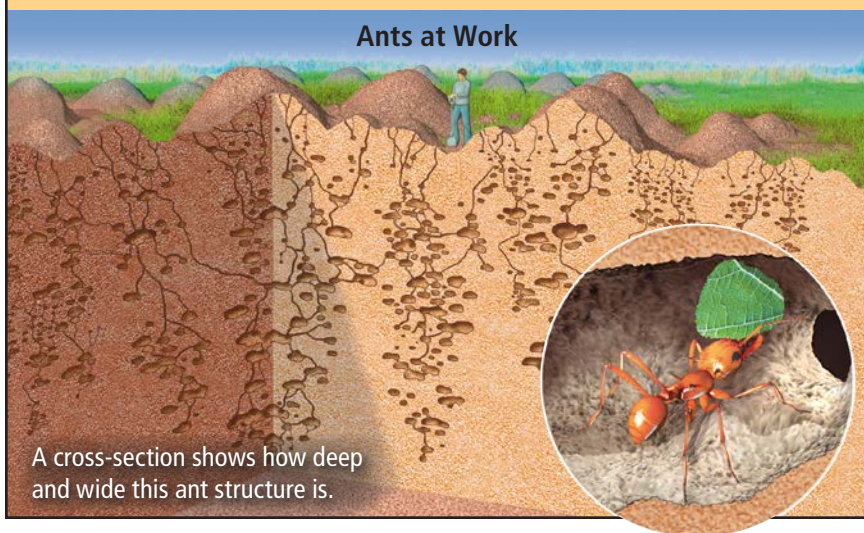
Like humans, leafcutter ants (bottom) form very large communities.



Researchers stand above and beside a leafcutter city in Brazil.

Little Ants, Big City

In Brazil, researchers found a huge, empty underground city, once the home of leafcutter ants. In order to build their home, each insect would have carried loads of earth more than half a mile (0.8 km)—over and over. In total, the ants moved around 45 tons (40 mt) of soil to create their network of tunnels.



Ants at Work

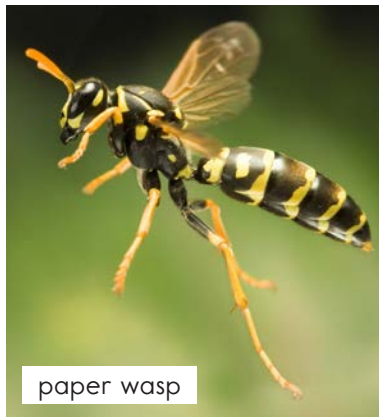
A cross-section shows how deep and wide this ant structure is.



Paper wasp nests come in many shapes and styles.

Paper Wasp Nests

These insects chew bits of wood and plants into paper. They make an amazing nest.

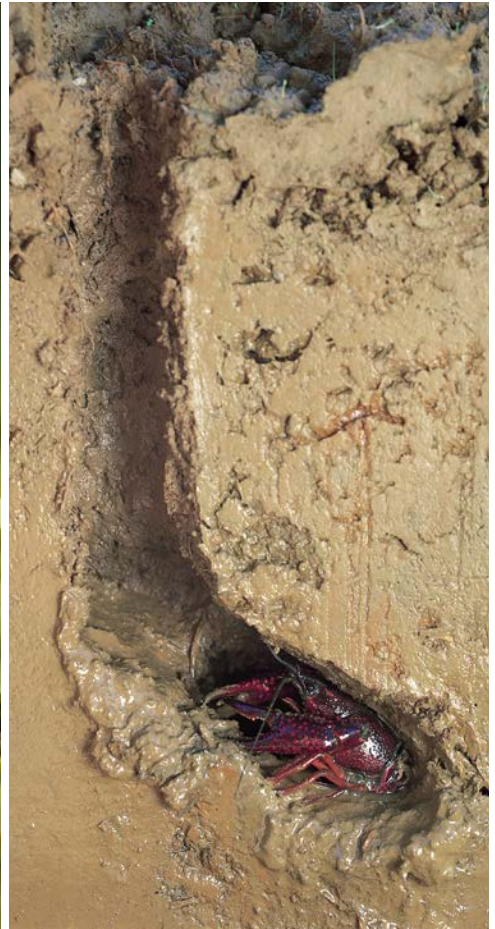


paper wasp

Crayfish Chimneys

This animal digs into wet dirt to get to water.

The dirt gets pushed up and looks like a little **chimney**.



Crayfish need water to help them breathe.

Beaver Dams and Dens

Beavers use sticks and mud to build **dams** and **dens**.



Beavers enter their dens by swimming into them (top). The living space, though, is built above the water level. A young beaver needs help climbing into its den (bottom).

Caddisfly Cocoons

These little insects use their silk to make cocoons. They add sand, small sticks, even shells to their cocoons to make beautiful artlike cases.



Watch Them Build

Animals don't need tools to build great things.

Animals are amazing!



A black-tailed prairie dog looks out of its burrow.

Glossary

- builders** (*n.*) those who make or construct something from parts (p. 4)
- chimney** (*n.*) a pipe or structure where smoke and gases escape, often from the roof of a building (p. 13)
- dams** (*n.*) barriers that stop the flow of water (p. 14)
- dens** (*n.*) homes of wild animals (p. 14)
- prey** (*n.*) an animal that is hunted and eaten (p. 9)
- silk** (*n.*) strong threads made by a spider or silkworm (p. 9)

What Built This?

A Reading A-Z Level H Leveled Book

Word Count: 161

Connections

Writing and Art

Choose one of the animals from this book. Draw a picture of the animal and what it builds. Label your picture using facts and information from this book.

Science

Choose two of the animals from this book. Draw a Venn diagram comparing what these two animals build, listing at least five similarities and differences.

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