Name: _____ Date: _____

Ants Work as a Team

Circle group

An ant is tiny. But ants do big things together. Most ants live in a group called a colony. A colony can have a few dozen ants. Or it can have millions.

Each ant has a job. The queen lays eggs. Worker ants are all females. They find food, dig tunnels, and care for the young. Some ants guard the nest.

How does an ant show the others where food is? It leaves a trail of scent, or smell, on the ground. Other ants follow it. They add their own scent when they carry food home. A strong trail leads many ants to the food.

Ants can carry things much heavier than they are. A colony can move a big crumb. One ant could never lift it. Scientists like to study ants.

Questions

1. What is a colony?

_____

_____

2. Which ant lays eggs?

_____

_____

3. What do worker ants do?

_____

_____

4. How does an ant show the others where food is?

_____

_____

5. Why does a strong trail lead many ants to food?

_____

_____

6. Why can a colony move a crumb that one ant can not?

_____

_____

Words to know

colony: a large group of animals that live together
queen: the ant that lays the eggs for the colony
worker: an ant that does the daily jobs of the colony
scent: a smell
tunnels: long paths dug underground

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ants Work as a Team

Triangle group

An ant is tiny, but ants do big things together. Most ants live in a group called a colony. A colony may have a few dozen ants or millions of them.

Each ant has a job. The queen lays the eggs. Worker ants, which are all females, look for food, build tunnels, and care for the young. Some ants guard the nest.

How does an ant tell the others where food is? It leaves a trail of scent, or smell, on the ground. Other ants follow the trail, and they add their own scent when they carry food home. A strong trail leads many ants to the food.

Ants can carry things much heavier than themselves. Working as a team, a colony can move a big crumb that one ant could never lift. That is why scientists like to study them.

Questions

1. What is a colony?

_____

_____

2. Which ant lays the eggs?

_____

_____

3. What jobs do worker ants do?

_____

_____

4. How does an ant tell the others where food is?

_____

_____

5. Why does a strong trail lead many ants to the food?

_____

_____

6. Why can a colony move a crumb that one ant cannot?

_____

_____

Words to know

colony: a large group of animals that live together
queen: the ant that lays the eggs for the colony
worker: an ant that does the daily jobs of the colony
scent: a smell
tunnels: long paths dug underground

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ants Work as a Team

Square group

An ant may be tiny, but ants accomplish enormous things when they cooperate. Most ants live in a group known as a colony, which might contain a few dozen ants or as many as millions.

Every ant has a particular job. The queen is responsible for laying the eggs, while the worker ants, which are all females, search for food, construct tunnels, and look after the young. Certain ants stand guard over the nest.

How does one ant tell the others where food can be found? It leaves a trail of scent, or smell, along the ground. Other ants follow the trail and add their own scent as they carry food home, so a strong trail guides many ants to the food.

Ants can carry objects far heavier than themselves. Working as a team, a colony can move a large crumb that a single ant could never lift, which is one reason scientists enjoy studying them.

Questions

1. What is a colony?

_____

_____

2. Which ant is responsible for laying the eggs?

_____

_____

3. What jobs do the worker ants do?

_____

_____

4. How does an ant tell the others where food can be found?

_____

_____

5. Why does a strong trail guide many ants to the food?

_____

_____

6. Why can a colony move a crumb that a single ant cannot?

_____

_____

Words to know

colony: a large group of animals that live together
queen: the ant that lays the eggs for the colony
worker: an ant that does the daily jobs of the colony
scent: a smell
tunnels: long paths dug underground

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Ants Work as a Team

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Ants Work as a Team

Easier · 132 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.3

1. A group of ants that live together.
2. The queen.
3. They find food, dig tunnels, and care for the young.
4. It leaves a scent trail on the ground.
5. Each ant that carries food home adds more scent.
6. Many ants work together.

Triangle: Ants Work as a Team

This passage · 141 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. A group of ants that live together.
2. The queen.
3. They look for food, build tunnels, and care for the young.
4. It leaves a scent trail on the ground.
5. Each ant that carries food home adds more scent, so the trail gets stronger.
6. Many ants work together as a team.

Square: Ants Work as a Team

Harder · 156 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.2

1. A group of ants that live together.
2. The queen.
3. They search for food, construct tunnels, and look after the young.
4. It leaves a scent trail along the ground.
5. Each ant carrying food home adds more scent, so the trail grows stronger.
6. Many ants cooperate as a team.