Name: _____ Date: _____

Jobs in an Ant Colony

Circle group

One ant is very small. But a group of ants can do big things. Ants live in a home called a colony. Each ant has a job. The colony works well because every ant does its part.

Every colony has a queen. The queen lays the eggs. She is bigger than the other ants. She stays safe in the nest.

Most ants are workers. Some workers care for the eggs and young ants. Some dig tunnels and keep the nest clean. Others go outside to find food.

A worker finds food. She leaves a trail of scent on the ground as she walks home. A scent is a smell. Other ants sniff the trail. They walk the same path to the food. Soon a long line of ants carries crumbs to the nest.

Some ants guard the door of the nest. They warn the others of danger.

One ant can do little. Together, ants make a busy, safe home.

Questions

1. What is an ant home called?

_____

_____

2. What is the job of the queen?

_____

_____

3. What do some workers do in the nest?

_____

_____

4. How does a worker show other ants where the food is?

_____

_____

5. Why do ants walk in a long line to the food?

_____

_____

6. What is the main idea of this passage?

_____

_____

Words to know

colony: a large group of animals that live together
queen: the ant that lays the eggs for the colony
tunnels: long passages dug under the ground
scent: a smell
guard: to watch over something to keep it safe

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: _____

Jobs in an Ant Colony

Triangle group

A single ant is very small, but a group of ants can do big things. Ants live together in a home called a colony. Each ant has a job, and the colony works well because everyone does a part.

Every colony has at least one queen. The queen lays the eggs. She is usually bigger than the other ants, and she stays safe inside the nest.

Most of the ants in the colony are workers. Some workers take care of the eggs and the young ants. Some dig tunnels and keep the nest clean. Others go outside to look for food.

When a worker finds food, it leaves a trail of scent on the ground as it walks home. The scent is a smell that ants can follow. Other ants sniff out the trail and walk the same path to the food. Soon a long line of ants is carrying crumbs back to the nest.

Some ants also guard the entrance to the nest and warn the others of danger.

An ant on its own can do little. Together, ants make a busy, safe home.

Questions

1. What is an ant home called?

_____

_____

2. What is the job of the queen?

_____

_____

3. What do some workers do inside the nest?

_____

_____

4. How does a worker show other ants where the food is?

_____

_____

5. Why do ants walk in a long line to the food?

_____

_____

6. What is the main idea of this passage?

_____

_____

Words to know

colony: a large group of animals that live together
queen: the ant that lays the eggs for the colony
tunnels: long passages dug under the ground
scent: a smell
guard: to watch over something to keep it safe

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: _____

Jobs in an Ant Colony

Square group

A single ant is extremely small, yet a group of ants can accomplish remarkable things. Ants live together in a home known as a colony, and each ant has a particular job. The colony thrives because every member contributes its share of the work.

Every colony has at least one queen, whose responsibility is to lay the eggs. She is usually larger than the other ants, and she remains safely inside the nest.

Most of the ants in a colony are workers. Some workers look after the eggs and the young ants, while others dig tunnels and keep the nest clean. Still others travel outside the nest in search of food.

When a worker discovers food, she leaves a trail of scent on the ground as she walks back home. A scent is a smell that other ants can follow. The other ants sniff out the trail and travel along the same path to the food, and soon a long line of ants is carrying crumbs back to the nest.

Certain ants also guard the entrance to the nest and warn the rest of the colony when there is danger.

An ant on its own can accomplish very little, but together, ants build a busy and secure home.

Questions

1. What is the name of a home where ants live together?

_____

_____

2. What is the responsibility of the queen?

_____

_____

3. What tasks do some workers perform inside the nest?

_____

_____

4. How does a worker let other ants know where the food is?

_____

_____

5. Why do the ants travel in a long line to the food?

_____

_____

6. What is the main idea of this passage?

_____

_____

Words to know

colony: a large group of animals that live together
queen: the ant that lays the eggs for the colony
tunnels: long passages dug under the ground
scent: a smell
guard: to watch over something to keep it safe

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: Jobs in an Ant Colony

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

Circle: Jobs in an Ant Colony

Easier · 159 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.1

1. A colony.
2. She lays the eggs.
3. Care for eggs and young ants, dig tunnels, and keep it clean.
4. She leaves a trail of scent on the ground.
5. They follow the scent trail.
6. Ants work together, and each one has a job.

Triangle: Jobs in an Ant Colony

This passage · 185 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.1

1. A colony.
2. She lays the eggs.
3. Care for eggs and young ants, dig tunnels, and keep the nest clean.
4. It leaves a trail of scent on the ground.
5. They follow the scent trail the first ant left.
6. Ants work together, and each one has a job.

Square: Jobs in an Ant Colony

Harder · 208 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.8

1. A colony.
2. She lays the eggs.
3. They look after eggs and young ants, dig tunnels, and keep the nest clean.
4. She leaves a trail of scent on the ground.
5. They follow the scent trail that the first worker left.
6. Ants succeed by working together, and each ant has its own job.