

JUST FOR U.S.*

GRADES 4-5

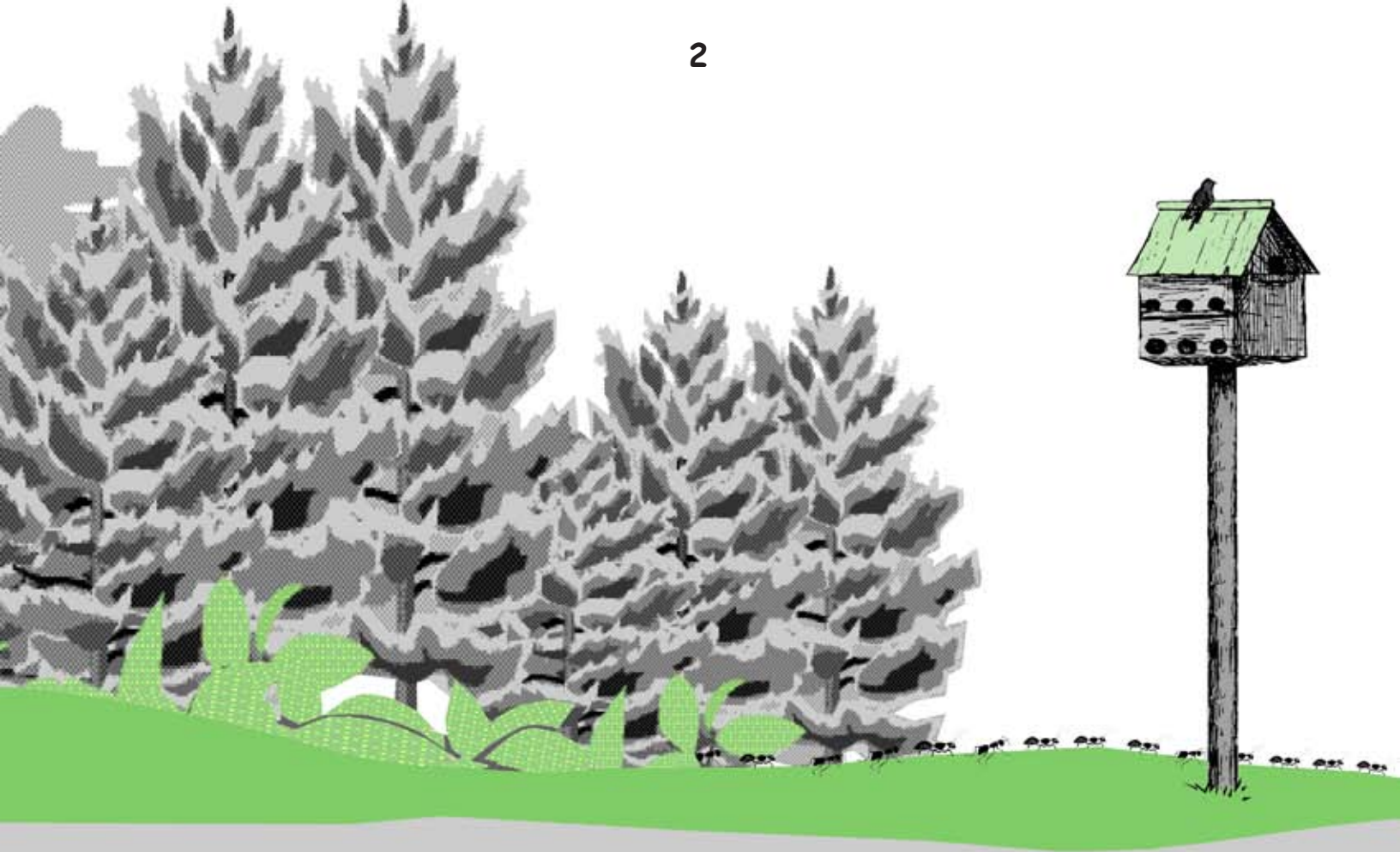
* Understanding Science

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Ants live almost all over the world. Scientists estimate that there are about 10,000 ant species.



On the map, can you identify the places where ants don't live? Why are these habitats not suitable for ants? Read between the lines of marching ants on the "ANTsers" page inside to find out.



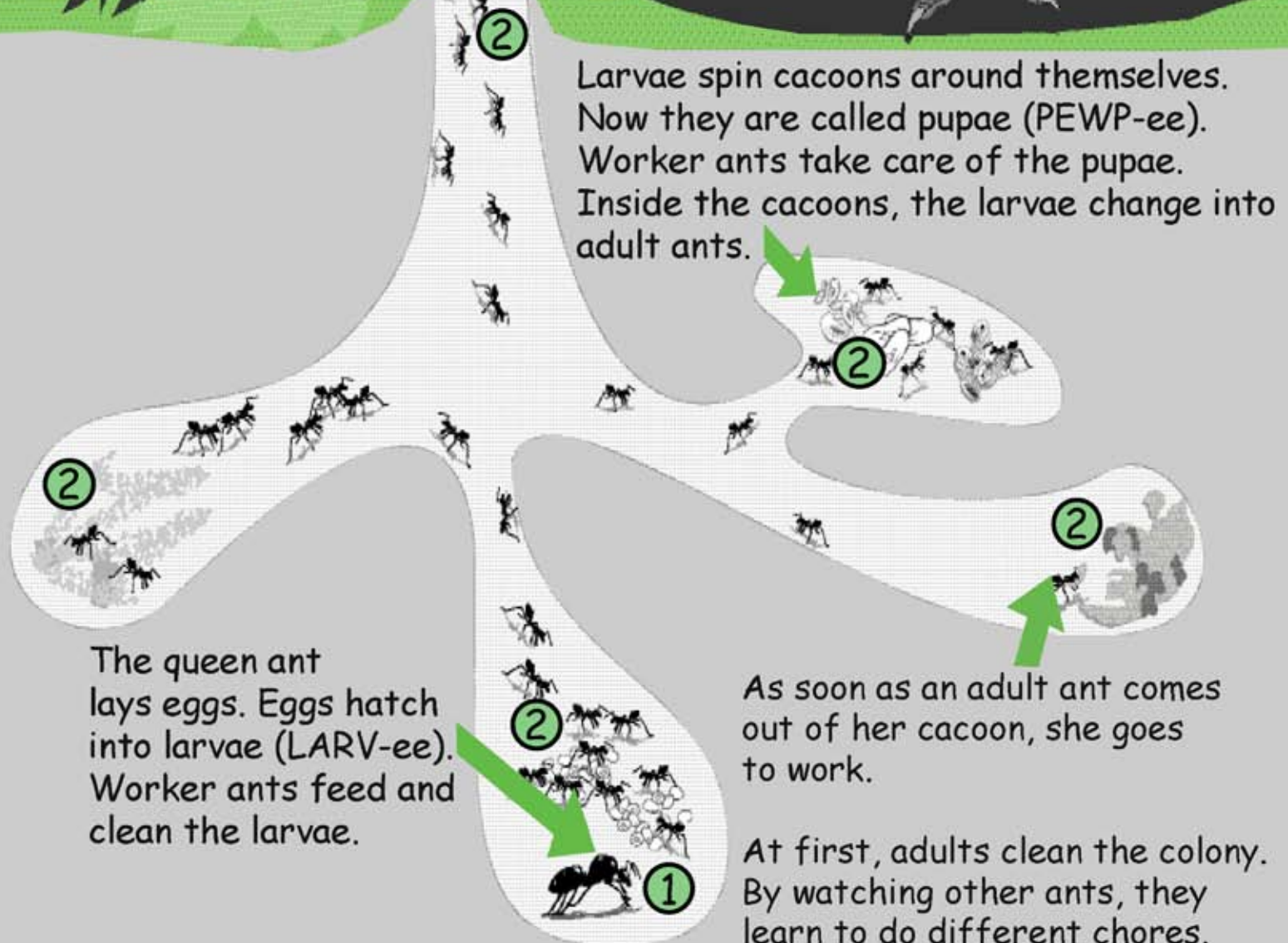
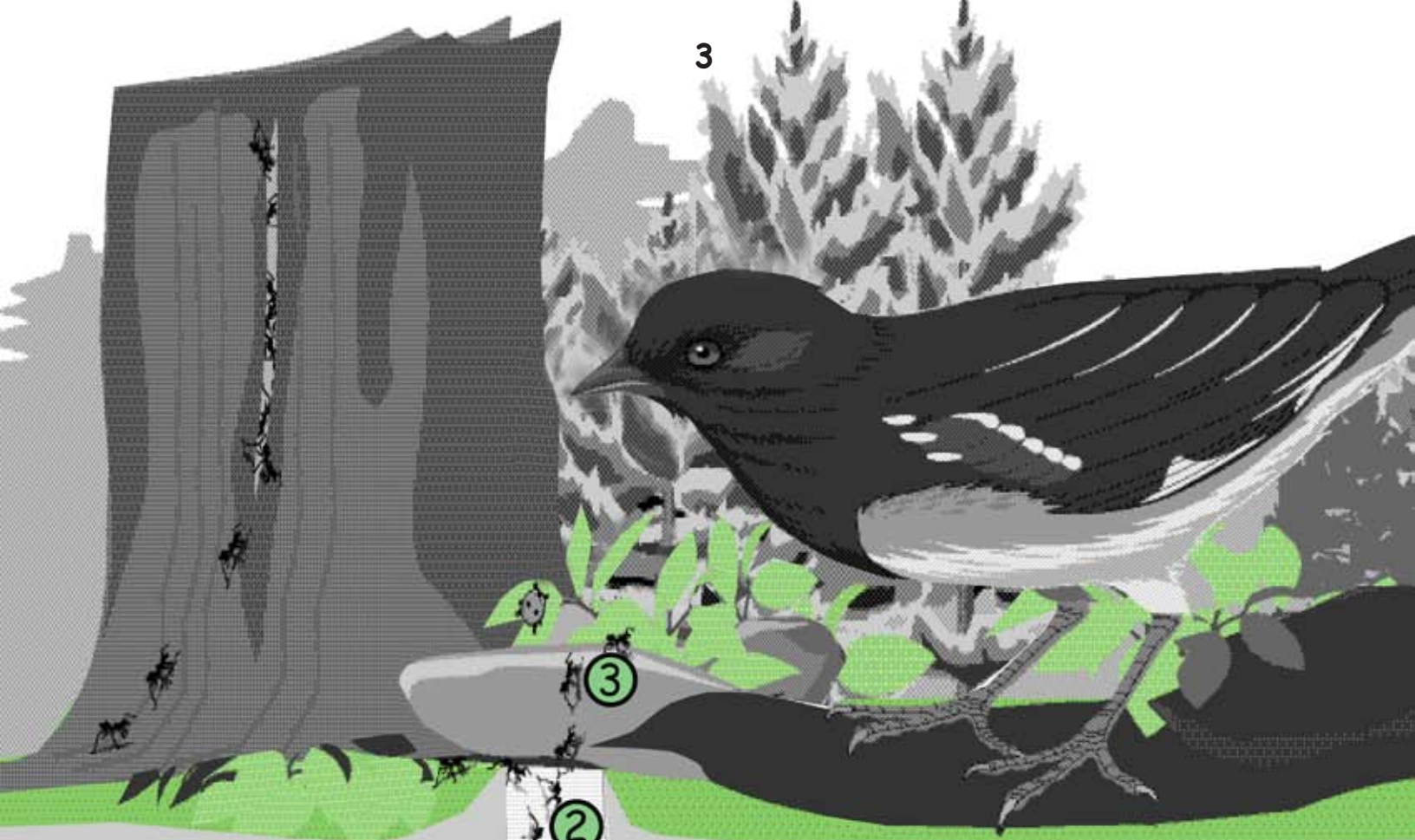
ANT COLONIES

Ants live in colonies in tunnels under the ground or in mounds of soil. Some ants even build their colonies inside trees.

New colonies may have only a few hundred ants, while older colonies have thousands of ants.

There are three types of ants in a colony.

- ① The **queen** is the biggest ant and the mother of all the ants in the colony.
- ② The **worker** ants are her daughters. Worker ants hunt for food. When an ant finds food, she leaves a trail of scent behind her on the way back home. The trail guides other worker ants to find the food.
- ③ The queen also has sons. These male ants have wings. They fly away from the colony to mate with other queens and start new colonies.



Larvae spin cocoons around themselves. Now they are called pupae (PEWP-ee). Worker ants take care of the pupae. Inside the cocoons, the larvae change into adult ants.

The queen ant lays eggs. Eggs hatch into larvae (LARV-ee). Worker ants feed and clean the larvae.

As soon as an adult ant comes out of her cocoon, she goes to work.

At first, adults clean the colony. By watching other ants, they learn to do different chores.

"ConcANTration" Game



How many parts does an ant's body have?



How strong is an ant?



Where do ants build their colonies?



What is the life cycle of an ant?



How many ants live in a colony?



Are ants all the same color?



To play:

Cut out these ant cards.

Arrange them in four rows,

green side up.

Turn over any two cards.

If the ants match—you win!

Leave all winning pairs face up.

If the ants don't match,

turn the cards over again and

choose two other cards.

Match all six pairs. Then play

again with one of your friends.

"ANTsers" (to questions on page 4)

3 body parts:
head,
thorax,
abdomen



Some ants
can lift 20
times their
own body
weight!



Tunnels
in soil, in
mounds
and in
trees



Life cycle:
egg
larva
pupa
adult



One colony
can have
thousands
of ants!



Ants can
be black,
brown,
red or
yellow.



They are too cold!



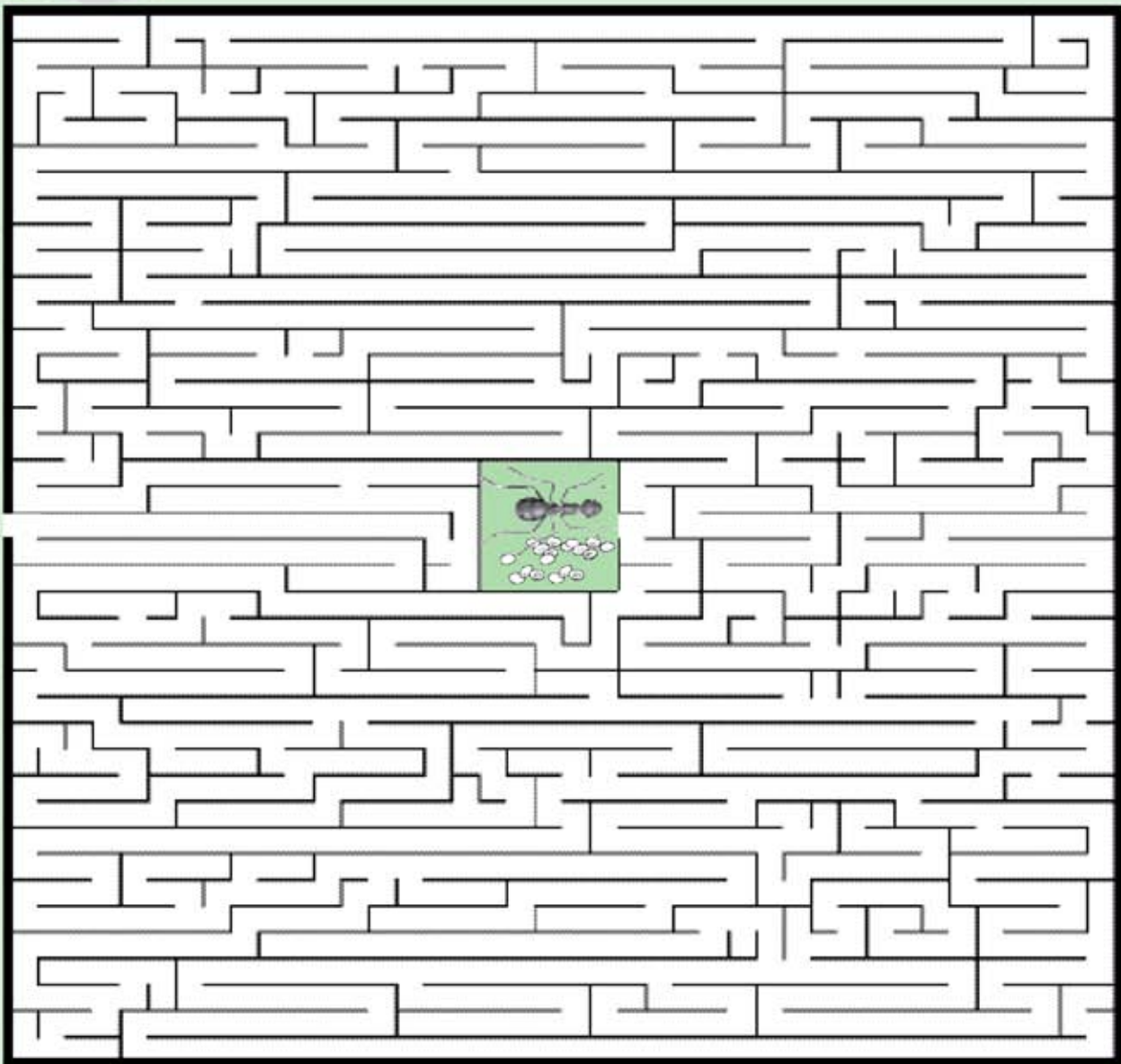


The Queen is Calling!

The queen ant has been busy laying eggs. Help the worker ant find her way through the colony maze to help her queen!



Start



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