

PRIMARILY for U.S.



GRADES 2-3

* Understanding Science

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What animal in your garden has
three body parts,
six legs
and 1,000 sisters?

An ant!

Have you ever seen a line
of ants marching along the
sidewalk? Have you noticed
how they all line up single file?
They may be marching home.





Some worker ants protect the colony from intruders.

Some **worker** ants gather food and bring it back to the colony. The food is stored until it is needed. Other worker ants take care of the queen.

The worker ants take care of the eggs. Ant eggs hatch into baby ants. The baby ants look like little white worms and are called **larvae** (LARV-ee). Worker ants feed and clean the larvae.

The larvae grow. When they are big enough, they spin cocoons around themselves. Now they are called **pupae** (PEWP-ee). Inside the cocoon, each pupae changes into an adult ant.

Most ant colonies have a **queen** ant. The queen ant lays eggs. She is the mother of all the ants in the colony. The worker ants are her daughters. One ant can have thousands of sisters!

As soon as adult ants come out of their cocoons, they go to work. First, they work inside the colony as cleaners. By watching other ants, they learn to do different chores.

Where Ants Live

Ants live in colonies. Some colonies have thousands of ants living in them. You can find ant colonies all over the world, except in a few very cold places.



Warmer climates ahead!



Ants build their colonies in different places.


1. Some are in tunnels under ground.
2. Some are in mounds of soil.
3. Some build their colonies inside trees.






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.



Ants do not have bones inside their bodies. Their bodies are covered with a hard exoskeleton, like armor.




Ants have three parts, or segments, to their bodies: head, **thorax** (THOR-ax) and abdomen (AB-doh-men). Their legs are attached to the thorax.



An ant is an **insect**. Insects have six legs.



head
thorax
abdomen

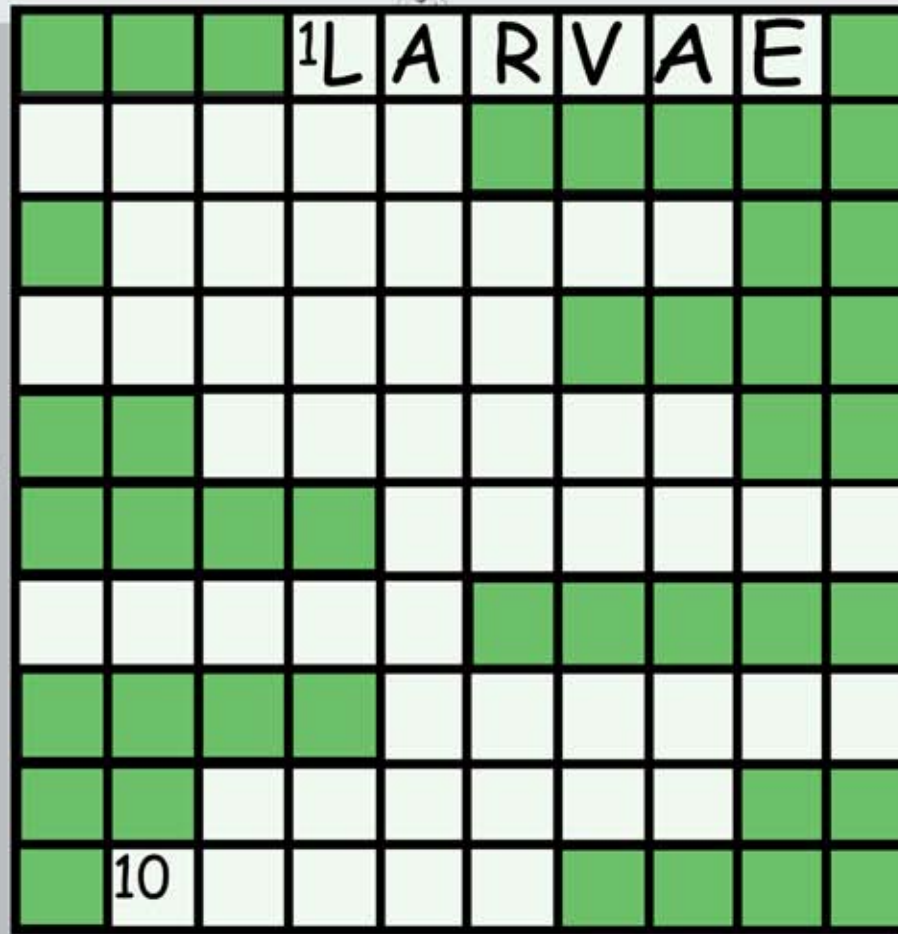


Ants do not hear or see very well. Instead, they depend on their sense of smell for information.



Antennae (an-TEN-ee) help ants sense smells and communicate with other ants.

Which continent has no ants living on it?



Write the answer to each clue at the matching number in the boxes going across. The first one is done for you. Read down the column with the ant on top to see the name of the "ant-less" Look for the answers in bold type inside this newsletter!

- 1 Baby ants are called _____.
- 2 The _____ ant is the mother of all the ants in the colony.
- 3 An ant may have a thousand _____!
- 4 One segment of the ant's body is the _____, where the legs are attached.
- 5 _____ ants clean the colony, collect food, and care for the queen and larvae.
- 6 Ants live in a _____.
- 7 When an _____ ant comes out of her cocoon, she starts to work.
- 8 An ant is an _____ and has six legs.
- 9 Larvae spin a _____ around themselves.
- 10 Larvae inside their cocoons are called _____.