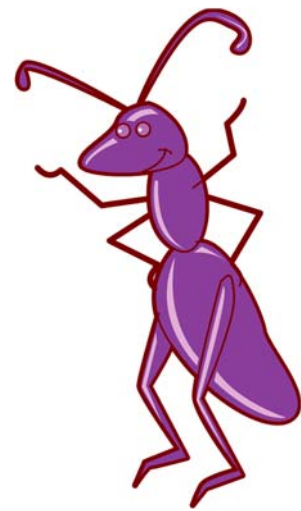


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Ants: Tiny but Mighty

Ants are remarkable insects that live in colonies, working together like a well-organized team. You might have seen them marching in a straight line or scurrying around in your backyard. These tiny creatures have many fascinating features and play essential roles in the environment.

### What Do Ants Look Like?

Ants come in various shapes and sizes, but they usually have a head, a thorax, and an abdomen. They have six legs and two antennae on their heads. Ants can be different colors, such as black, brown, red, or even yellow, depending on the species.

### Where Do Ants Live?

Ants can be found all over the world, from the deepest forests to bustling cities. They make their homes in nests, which can be underground, in rotting logs, or even in the walls of buildings. Ants are excellent builders, and they work together to create intricate tunnels and chambers within their nests.

### Ant Colonies and Jobs

Ants are famous for living in colonies, which are like ant cities. Each colony has a queen, worker ants, and sometimes soldier ants. The queen is the mother of all the ants in the colony and is responsible for laying eggs. Worker ants are the busiest members of the colony, doing tasks like foraging for food, caring for the young, and building and repairing the nest. Soldier ants protect the colony from intruders.

### Communication

Ants are excellent communicators. They use pheromones, which are special chemicals they release, to send messages to other ants. For example, if a worker ant finds food, it will leave a pheromone trail for other ants to follow, leading them to the food source.

### Diverse Diets

Ants are not picky eaters. They have diverse diets and can be scavengers, predators, or herbivores. Some ants collect nectar and pollen from flowers, while others hunt for insects or scavenge for food in your kitchen.

### Environmental Impact

Ants play crucial roles in the ecosystem. They help decompose dead plants and animals, which recycles nutrients back into the soil. Some ants also disperse seeds, helping plants grow in different areas. However, some invasive ant species can harm the environment by outcompeting native ants and disrupting ecosystems.

In summary, ants are incredible insects that live and work together in colonies. They communicate through pheromones, have diverse diets, and are essential for the environment. So, the next time you see ants busy at work, remember that they might be tiny, but they are mighty in their contributions to the world.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Ants: Tiny but Mighty

### Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What are ants, and where can they be found?
2. What are the three main types of ants in a colony, and what are their roles?
3. How do ants communicate with each other?
4. What are some different things that ants eat?
5. What important roles do ants play in the environment?