DAILY Warm-Up 9

Name _____ Date _____

THE ANT COLONY

Have you ever been on a picnic that was interrupted by ants? Ants are insects. The parts of an ant include the head, thorax, abdomen, antennae, and six legs. There are thousands of species of ants, and they are found living all over the world. Did you know that there is a science of studying ants that is called myrmecology?

Ants are social animals. That means they live and work together in groups. Each group of ants is called a colony. Each ant that lives in the colony has a specific role to play. There are four main roles in the ant colony. The first is the queen. The queen ant will mate with male ants and then fly to set up her colony. Once she has arrived at her nesting place, she will lose her wings and spend the rest of her life laying eggs.

The male ants have wings. They use these wings to fly and mate with the queen. Once the male ant has mated, it will die. The worker ants are non-reproducing female ants. These ants collect food and feed members of the colony. They are also responsible for defending the colony. If you see a group of ants, most of these are worker ants.

The last group of ants is called soldier ants. They are also non-reproducing ants that are bigger in size. Their main job is to defend the colony and to raid and attack other colonies.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Where would you read to find out the role of the worker ant?
   a. end of the first paragraph
   b. middle of the second paragraph
   c. in the third paragraph
   d. from the title
2. What is the meaning of the word *social* as used in this passage?
   a. claw-like
   b. has wings
   c. communal
   d. has a strong scent
3. The writer probably wrote this passage to . . .
   a. warn humans of the ant.
   b. enlighten farmers to the benefits of the ant.
   c. to determine the genealogy of the ant.
   d. inform the reader about the ant colony.
4. Which of these is <u>not</u> a fact about the ant?
   a. The ant is a meat-eating insect.
   b. The ant lives in a colony.
   c. The male ant has wings.
   d. The ant is on average a small insect.

LIVEWORKSHEETS