CHAPTER 1 THE WONDERFUL ANT

Fill in the Blanks

1. Mary saw a tiny _____ crawling on the grass, carrying a crumb of bread.
2. An ant can lift and carry loads much _____ than itself.
3. Fred Smith's dog, _____, accidentally dug up an anthill thinking it was a rabbit's burrow.
4. Ants are _____ and tidy, always busy and never idle.
5. The mother ant lays her eggs in a little _____ in the ground.
6. The tiny white grubs that hatch from the eggs have no _____.
7. The grubs spin _____ around themselves before turning into ants.
8. Young ants stay inside their cocoons for about _____ months.
9. An ant's body has two parts joined by a narrow _____.
10. Ants have six legs and two long _____ to hear, smell, and touch.
11. _____ ants take care of the grubs and young ants.
12. Some worker ants dig out little _____ like streets in a town.
13. Soldier ants protect the colony from _____.
14. Some ants keep _____ as pets, which give them sweet honeydew.
15. Tom joked that he wouldn't like to be an ant because he wouldn't want hundreds of _____ to take care of.

Choose the correct meaning for each word.

1. Tiny

   a) Huge
   b) Noisy
   c) Bright
   d) Very small

2. Burrow

   a. A tree

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b. A hole dug by an animal
c. A river
d. A cloud

3. Grubs

a. Adult ants
b. Leaves
c. Larval stage of insects
d. Stones

4. Cocoons

a. Protective silk cases
b. Antennae
c. Wings
d. Legs

5. Feelers

a. Eyes
b. Teeth
c. Feet
d. Antennae (for touch/smell)

6. Idle

a. Lazy
b. Hardworking
c. Hungry
d. Angry

7. Foes

a. Friends
b. Enemies
c. Pets
d. Workers

8. Nurse ants

a. Ants that fight

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b. Ants that dig tunnels
c. Ants that care for young
d. Ants that collect food

9. Passages

a. Tunnels
b. Wings
c. Eggs
d. Leaves

10. Greenflies

a. Ant soldiers
b. Insects kept as pets by ants
c. Types of trees
d. Antennae

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What amazed Mary about the ant she observed?

a) The ant was singing while carrying food back to its colony
b) The ant was building a small house out of grass blades
c) The ant was carrying a bread crumb much larger than itself
d) The ant was leading a parade of other insects

2. Why was Spotty the dog frightened during the incident with the anthill?

a) Ants started crawling all over his head and nose
b) He was scared of the dark tunnels inside the anthill
c) He saw a giant ant queen emerge from the ground
d) The ants began making loud screeching noises

3. What happens to ant grubs before they become adults?

a) They grow wings and learn to fly in small circles
b) They change colours daily until reaching adulthood
c) They leave the colony to explore the world alone
d) They spin protective cocoons around themselves

4. What special ability do ants' feelers (antennae) have?

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a) They can produce light to see in dark tunnels
b) They help ants hear, smell and touch their environment
c) They can shoot tiny drops of acid for defence
d) They store food for later consumption

5. What is the main job of nurse ants in the colony?

a) They take care of grubs and young ants
b) They guard all entrances to the anthill
c) They collect shiny objects to decorate the nest
d) They communicate with other insect species

6. How do some ants benefit from keeping greenflies as "pets"?

a) The greenflies help dig new tunnels faster
b) Greenflies warn them of approaching danger
c) Greenflies provide sweet honeydew when stroked
d) The greenflies lay extra eggs for food

7. Why does Tom say he's glad not to be an ant?

a) He wouldn't like living underground in darkness
b) He wouldn't enjoy having hundreds of siblings to care for
c) He thinks ant food tastes terrible
d) He prefers being much larger in size

8. What lesson does Uncle Jim say humans can learn from ants?

a) How to build stronger houses
b) Better ways to store food long-term
c) How to communicate without speaking
d) The value of cleanliness, hard work and cooperation

9. What happens during the three months when ant grubs are in their cocoons?

a) The grubs sleep peacefully without any changes until they emerge as adults.
b) They leave the cocoons at night to practice hunting for food.
c) They undergo a transformation, slowly developing into fully formed ants.
d) The nurse ants carry the cocoons to different parts of the nest daily.

10. How do soldier ants contribute to the colony?

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a) They gather the sweetest food from distant places to store for winter.

b) They are always ready to defend the nest against any threats or enemies.

c) They teach young ants how to build tunnels and find food.

d) They entertain the queen ant by performing special dances.

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