

## **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

- 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

- 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?

- 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?

- 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.