

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.