



# What Are Ants?

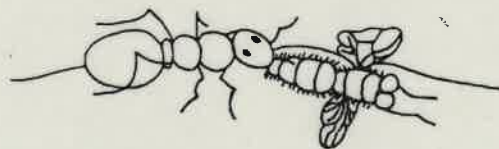


Ants are small **insects** and belong to a special group of the **wasp** family. Ants are found in almost every country **except cold areas**. There are approximately 10 000 different kinds of ants. Even with the many different ants they are all similar in appearance.

People and ants have many **similarities** even though they both look completely different. Ants are **social** insects because they live peacefully together in **colonies**. There are many different jobs to be done in the colony. There are **nurse** ants who look after the young for up to nine months, farmer ants, builder ants who build the nest, hunter ants and gardener ants.

Each colony has millions of workers which are **female** ants and at least one **queen** that lays the eggs. The queen is the largest ant. Even though the workers are female they do not **lay** eggs. Instead, they gather food, build the nest and look after the colony. These workers do not have wings. It is easy to tell a female ant from a male ant by the wings. Male ants have **wings** and female ants do not. Males are used to mate with the queen and once this job is done the male **dies**.

Ants eat different kinds of food. Worker ants collect the food and are able to lift fifty times their own weight. If we could lift that much weight we would be able to lift up a whole car! When one ant finds food other ants will go to that spot and collect food as well. Ants will eat dead animals, other insects, **nectar**, seeds and bits of garbage. Ants help to replenish nutrients in soil by bringing plants and animals into their underground nests.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Ants Are...



Fill in the blanks using the words below:



lay  
colony  
moms  
female

dies  
insects  
nectar  
dads

wasp  
nurse  
warm  
wings

similar  
family  
social  
queen

Ants are i \_\_\_\_\_ . They belong to a special group of the

W \_\_\_\_\_ family. Ants like W \_\_\_\_\_ places to live.

People and ants perform si \_\_\_\_\_ actions. Ants are

SO \_\_\_\_\_ insects and live together in a C \_\_\_\_\_ .

People live together in a f \_\_\_\_\_ . N \_\_\_\_\_ ants look

after the young. M \_\_\_\_\_ and d \_\_\_\_\_ look after their

babies.



Workers are fe \_\_\_\_\_ ants. They do not l \_\_\_\_\_

eggs. The q \_\_\_\_\_ ant lays the eggs. Male ants have wi \_\_\_\_\_

and mate with the queen. Once this job is done the male di \_\_\_\_\_ .

Ants like to eat ne \_\_\_\_\_ , dead animals and other insects.