

Listening Passage 2-5

Ants

Ants are everywhere! Ants live in deserts, mountains, forests, and rainy areas. There are over 14,000 different kinds of ants. There are red, brown, black, and even yellow ants. Sometimes ants get into our houses, our peanut butter jars, and other places where we don't want them. Even though these insects can be annoying, they are amazing creatures.

Ants are always busy. They live in sand hills. The worker ants are all females. Each worker ant has a different job. They each seem to know exactly what job to do. Some of the ants build the sand hill house. Some ants build the tunnels and rooms under the hill. These ants also act like soldiers. They protect the ant hill from enemies. Some of the ants find food and return it to the nest. If one ant finds food, the others will follow. That is why you often see not just one ant but a trail of ants. They are following one another to the food.

Ants work well together. If one ant cannot carry something, another ant will help. Ants are very strong. An ant can carry 25 times its own weight. That would be like a 50-pound child carrying something that weighs 1,250 pounds!

Ants have antennae that give them information. Their antennae help them smell food, test the wetness of the ground, and feel how warm it is outside. They even use their antennae to "hear" strange noises from the ground and to sense danger in the area. Perhaps an anteater is nearby. Time for the ants to scurry away!

Comprehension and Thinking Questions

Choose an Answer

1. Every ant has a (**job, room**).
2. Under the sand hill are many rooms and (**buildings, tunnels**).
3. All the worker ants are (**females, males**).
4. Ants can smell and hear using their (**feet, antennae**).
5. If one ant can't carry something, another ant will come to (**fight, help**).

What is the Answer?

1. Where do ants live?
2. What are some of the jobs the ants do?
3. What happens when one ant finds food?
4. How strong are ants?
5. Why are an ant's antennae important?

What If?

1. What if you could carry 25 times your own weight? What would you carry?
2. What if you were an ant? What job do you want? Why?