antennae crumb nest

Sniffing for food Guarding nest

Read the short story and answer each question.

What Do Ants Do?

Ants are tiny insects that live in the ground. They dig tunnels and build nests. A nest is a safe place for the ants to live.

Ants live in big groups. The group is called a colony. In a colony, every ant has a job.

Some ants look for food. They use their antennae to smell tiny crumbs. Some ants carry food back to the nest. Other ants guard the nest and keep it safe.

Ants are strong. They can carry food that is bigger than their own body!

Ants work together to help the whole colony.



# What Do Ants Do?

- 1. What is one job that ants do?
- A. They fly in the sky
- B. They carry food back to the nest
- C. They bark like dogs
- D. They drink juice from flowers

- 2. What helps ants find food?
- A. Their eyes
- B. Their hands
- C. Their antennae
- D. Their tails

3. Fill in the blank:

A group of ants is called a \_\_\_\_\_

4. How do ants help their colony? Use one sentence from the text as evidence.

5. What is something you learned about ants that you didn't know before?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: E Lexile Level: 30L-150L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Informational Text

#### Introducing the Text

"Today we are going to read a nonfiction passage about ants. As we read, let's ask questions, look for important details, and use the text to help us answer our questions. We'll also practice finding sentences in the text that give us the information we need."

Vocabulary: insects, tunnel, colony, antennae, crumbs

## **Before Reading Discussion Questions**

- 1. What do you already know about ants?
- 2. Have you ever seen ants carrying something?
- 3. What questions do you have about how ants work?

## **During Reading Discussion Questions**

- 1. What jobs do the ants have?
- What does the word "colony" mean in the story?
- 3. What sentence tells us how ants find crumbs?

#### After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. How do ants help each other in the colony?
- 2. What did you learn that surprised you?
- 3. How did the text help you answer your questions?

## **Activity Idea**

Give students a mini foldable book with three sections: 1) "What I Know About Ants," 2) "What I Learned from the Text," and 3) "What I Still Wonder." Students use pictures and simple labels to complete each page. Then they share with a partner and discuss their evidence.

