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ANTHILL

Petra Bartíková



Welcome!

ANTHILL





Soldier ants catch various insects, and when there are more, they **overpower them** and chew them up.

Larvae of rose chafer beetles, ant-loving crickets and other kinds of invertebrate creatures **live along with ants.**

Ants have to **prepare for the winter** even before autumn arrives. Their work enlarging the passageways and chambers is therefore even intensified.

Ants are **heroes!** They gather and carry various plant seeds to the anthill. They are able to catch **overabundant pests** which harm trees, they air out the soil and **help care** for the forest.

Ants also climb up the trunks of trees and visit **aphids.** They lick off their **honeydew** and climb back down with their rear ends full of sweet juice. They often even bring the aphids back to the anthill, where they take care of them. It's like **a small farm** – they hang them on plants and trees, so the aphids can thrive. When they want the honeydew to be released, they tap on them with their antennas.

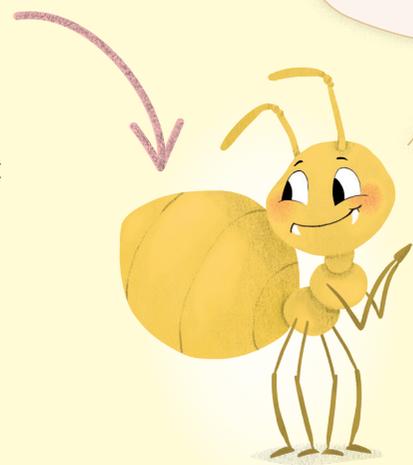
Soldier ants

Beetle larvae

Aphids

EACH IS DIFFERENT

The ants which live here in the forest or in the garden are different from those which live a thousand kilometres away. There are actually thousands and thousands of different kinds of ants in the world. And each kind is special in some way. *Tetramorium atratulum*, for example, have a large rear end.



Wow, aren't I a looker ...

THE QUEEN

There is always one ant in the anthill who is much larger than the rest. She is the Queen. Guess how you can tell the difference between the ant males and female ant workers! The males are the ones with wings.



STRONG ANT

Ants are excellent hunters and also very strong. Just imagine that the prey of an ant can be several times larger than the ant itself. The ant can carry it on its own.



ON GUARD

Ants are well-organized in the anthill. While one takes a short nap, another stands on guard, protecting their home from enemies. The anthill and its surroundings are always guarded.



ANT DELICACY

Even ants have their favourite goody. When they want to snack on something as sweet as honey, they climb up a tree to some aphids and lick off their delicious secretions - honeydew. Yum, yum, that tastes good!



What a treat!

ANT'S ENEMY

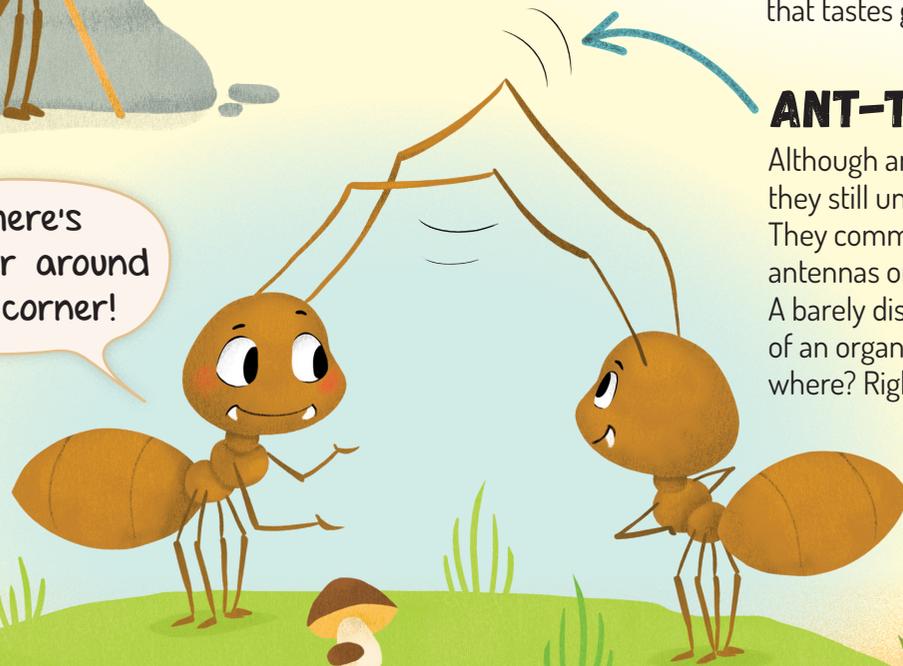
Ants don't like them at all. And it's not surprising since wild pigs love to dig up anthills and even roll around in them. Wonder why? They love eating the ant larvae and juicy pupae.



ANT-TALKING

Although ants can't talk like people, they still understand one another. They communicate by touching their antennas or through silent chirping. A barely discernible noise comes out of an organ which is ... Just guess where? Right on their rear end!

There's a pear around the corner!



SUNBATHERS

As soon as the sun comes out in the spring and its rays push through the clouds, ants in the forest come to life. Just notice how some of them make their way to the top of the anthill. These are sunbathers - ants which warm up their bodies and then bring the stored warmth into the anthill to heat it up.



ANTHILL

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Illustrated by Magdalena Takáčová

Imagine you are an ant spending one day in an anthill. What would it be like? In the spring you would lie about on top of the ant heap, warm up your body and then warm up the chambers and corridors inside the anthill. You would climb up and down trees, looking for food, even catching some aphids. You and your ant friends would enjoy tasting their sweet secretions. But that's enough talk. You know what? Make yourself comfortable and come with us right into the anthill...

I've got a treat for you.

Get to know
THE ANTS
and their
life.

Look inside
the anthill.

Worker ants
carry out
various tasks.

Let's dig it
out here.

Ants only rarely
take a rest.

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WARNING: CHOKING
HAZARD Small parts. Not
suitable for children under
36 months.

ISBN + EAN