



# Mighty Ants



Ants are insects. They have three body part—head (tap head), thorax (tap chest), and abdomen (tap tummy)—6 legs, 2 antennae (2 fingers sticking out of forehead).

We can learn about ants. Ants bodies have 3 parts—let's count 1,2,3—head (touch head), thorax (tap chest), abdomen (tap tummy), and a petiole (hands on waist) or waist between the thorax and abdomen.



Six (Let's count 1,2,3,4,5,6.) legs are attached to the middle part, the thorax. Ants have hooks on their legs for climbing and combs for cleaning their bodies (Can you find a hook or comb in your house?).



Ants have an (big word alert!) exoskeleton Tap your forehead, elbow and knee—can you feel the hard parts, bones/skeleton, under your soft skin? Feel the skin on the outside and bones on the inside. Ants' hard parts are on the outside.



Ants communicate by touching antennae (Put 2 fingers by your head and touch mommy's or daddy's two fingers.), by smell (Have something scented to sniff.), and by vibration.



Ants live in a colony or group (Interlace fingers.).

There are different jobs in an ant colony and you can find objects at home to act out the roles: nurse (rock baby), builder (hammer), food gatherer (shopping bag), food maker (cook/stir), protector (punch), queen/drone/larva/pupa (family dolls).



You can sing *The Ants Are Busy* song. Ants do a lot of work.

Sung to: "She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain"

Oh, the ants are busy, busy as can be.

Oh, the ants are busy, busy as can be.

See them dig and dig and dig.

Lots of tunnels, oh, so big.

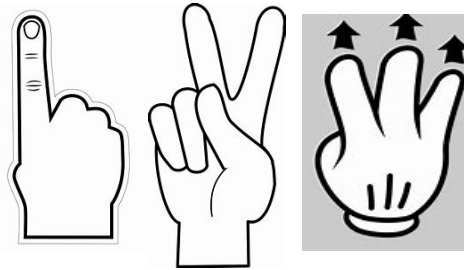
Oh, the ants are busy, busy as can be.

<http://www.preschooleducation.com/sbug.shtml>



You can do the fingerplay to remind you that ants live in a

colony or group.



**Ants work together—1,2,3** (Put up 1,2,3, fingers.)

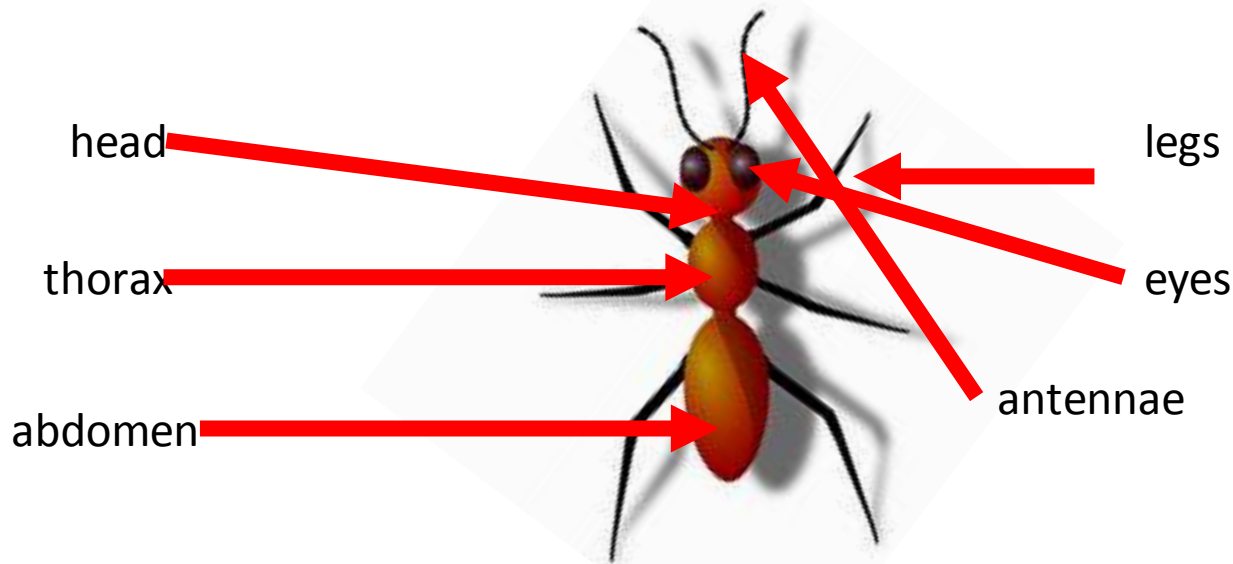
**Ants live in a colony!**



(Spread fingers and bring both hands together.)

This song, to the tune of *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, teaches you the parts of an insect like an ant.

Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen 2x  
(touch head, chest, tummy)  
6 legs, some wings and exoskeleton  
(3 fingers each hand, flap hands on shoulders, go head to toes both hands)  
Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen.  
Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen 2x  
(touch head, chest, tummy)  
Big eyes, small size and 2 antennae too  
(2 fists, pointer fingers together, pointer fingers on head)  
Head, thorax, abdomen, abdomen.



You can be an ant following a pheromone (smell) path and sing *The Ants Go Marching* and march!

Sung to: *When John Comes Marching Home*

The ants go marching low and high  
Hurrah! Hurrah!



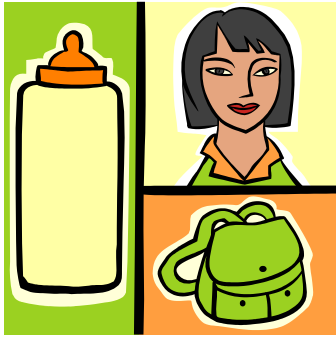
The ants go marching low and high  
Hurrah! Hurrah!

The ants go marching low and high

The ants go marching by and by,

So let's all go marching down to the ground and  
up to the tree. You and me!





You can act out some of the jobs ants do in the colony: males, queens, food collector, builder, guard and nurse.

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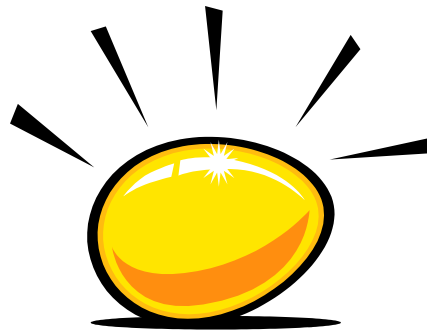
# Males=daddies

- Mate=make babies



# Queen=mommy

- Lays eggs



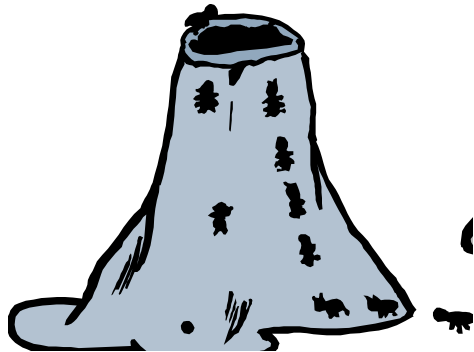
# Worker

- Food collector



# Worker

- Nest builder



# Worker

- Daycare, nanny, babysitter



# Worker

- Protector



You can cut out an ant and act out the Ant Chant!

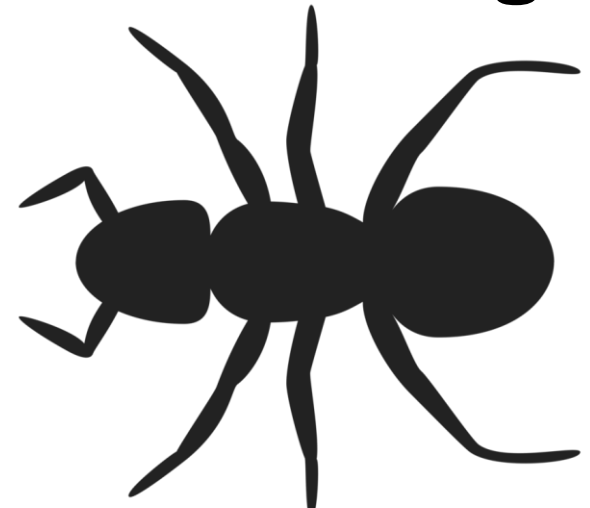


*Ant Chant* by Peggy Spring



# **Ant Chant**

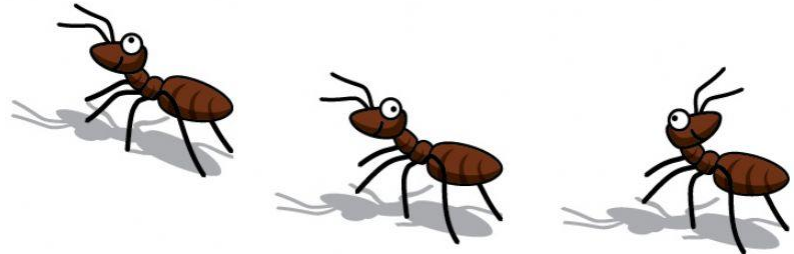
**Ants have a great big head, I say,  
With two large eyes and two antennae.  
Their thorax is like what we call a chest  
Six legs are there, that is best  
They have an abdomen; you can call it a  
tummy.  
They like it best filled with something  
yummy.**



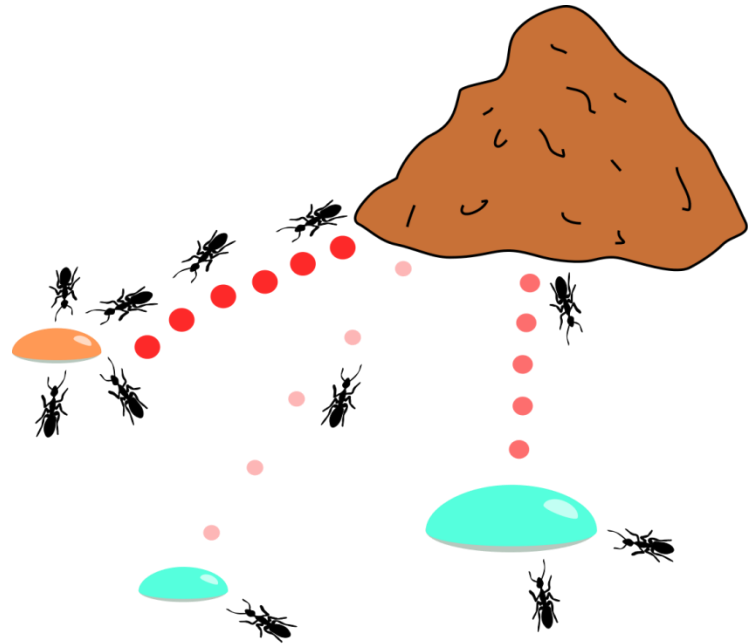
**Some ants live in a great big mound;  
Some ant hills are much smaller and  
round.**

**These ants are marching into the  
ground.**

**Let's look inside and see what's  
found.**



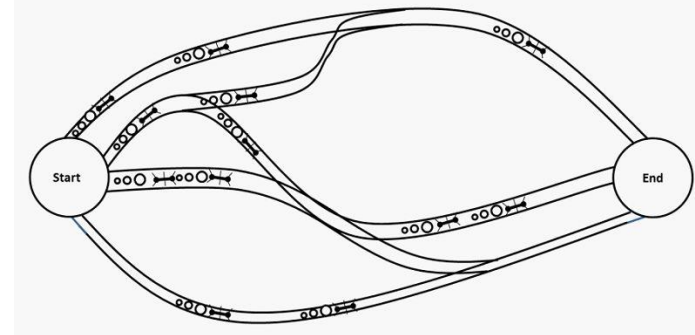
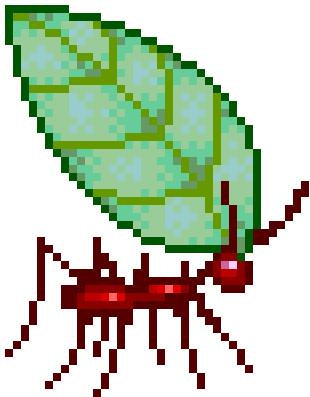
**Ants live together like a family;  
They all have a job in the colony.  
Some ants are workers; some ants  
guard  
And when they bite, they bite hard!**



**We build a house with hammer and nails.**

**Ants build their nests by digging trails.**

**We rock babies to help them sleep;  
Ants keep their babies in a great big heap.**

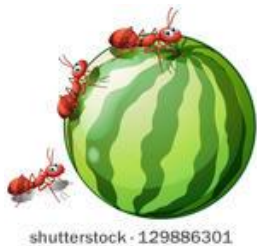


**Some of the workers must find some food.**

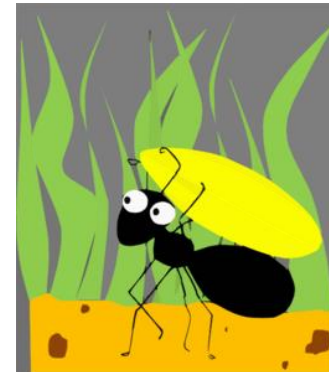
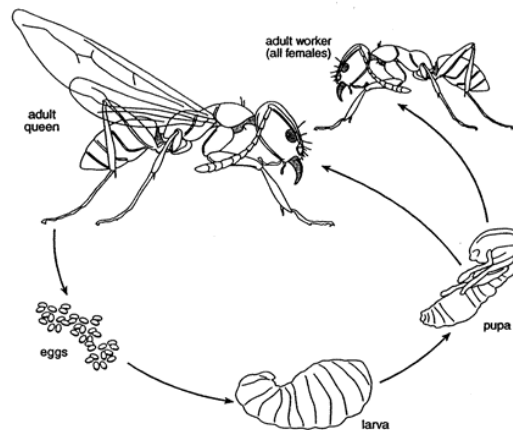
**There're so many mouths in the ant nest brood.**

**You have a mommy; ants have a queen.**

**She lays more eggs than you've ever seen!**



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**The daddy ants also have six legs;  
Their job is to help the queen make  
eggs.**

**Ant babies change as they grow.  
You have changed too, that is so.**



Queen



Male

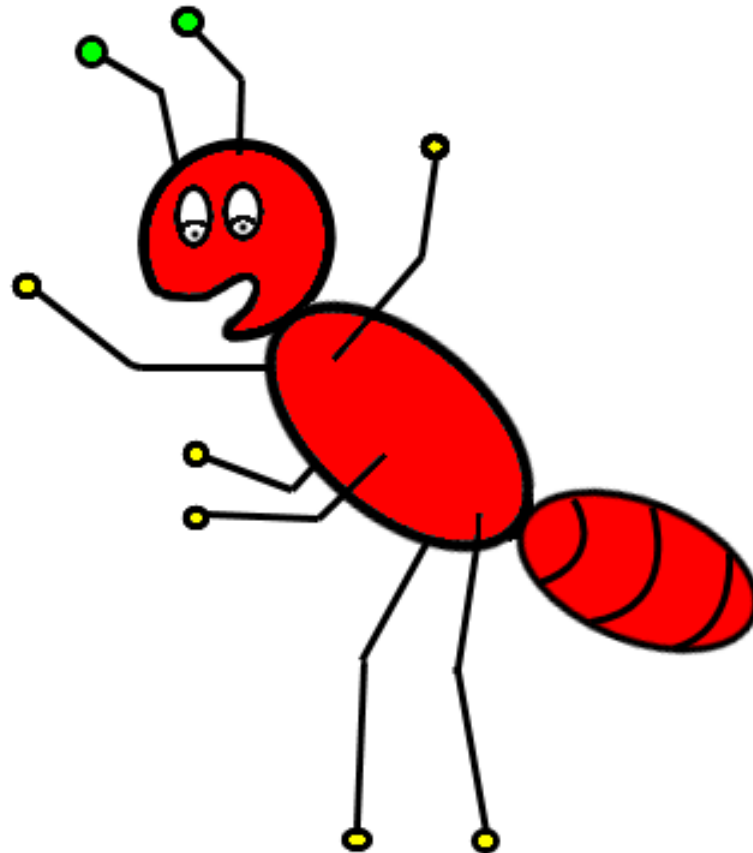


Normal-sized worker

Soldier

**Now you know the story; let's  
give a chant!**

**Let's all say, "Hey, Little Ant!"**



# The Very Busy Ant



Here is a story you can read about a very busy ant.



Once there was a very busy ant.





He tried to find the way out of the plant.







He looked all over....





and all around....





up and sideways and upside down!

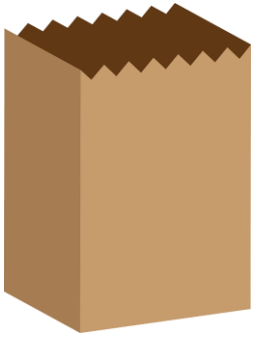
# Follow a pheromone trail.

You can make a pheromone trail with any scented spray or spice and act out being an ant following the scent (pheromone) trail.



# Let's Go Collecting Bag

- Get a bag or envelope and



- Glue on the net and ant and decorate it for the Let's Go Collecting Game!



Your family can hide the ants around the house, and you can play the Let's go Collecting Game and try to collect all the ants in your bag!





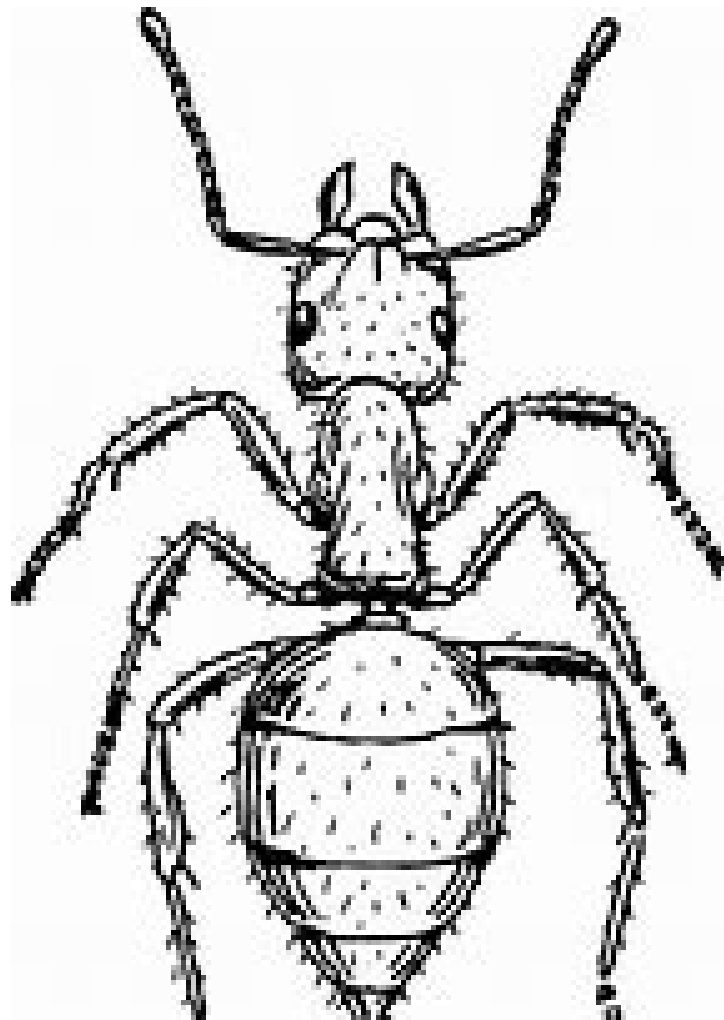
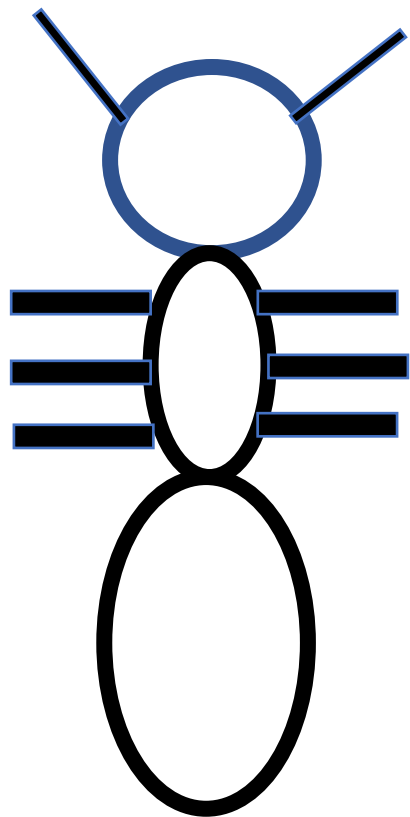
# Imagine an Ant Snack!

What can you use to make an ant?

- What can you use for the three body parts—slices of banana, round cookies or crackers?
- What can you use for the eyes—raisins, sunflower seeds, M&Ms?
- What can you use for the legs and antennae—thin slices of carrots or celery, pretzels or shoestring potato chips?

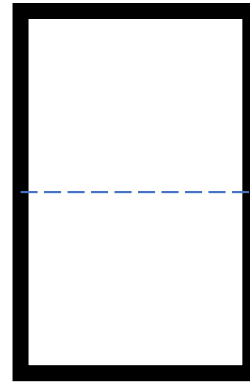
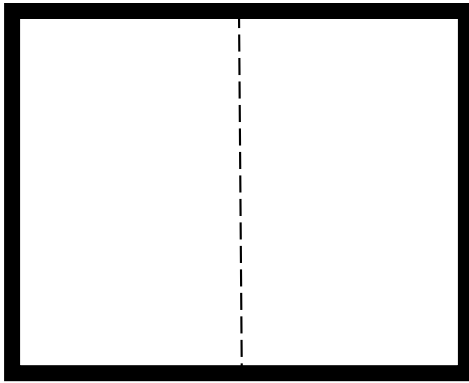


Design an Ant! You can use the shapes on the left or your own design.



# You can make a mini-book!

- Fold the paper in half
- Then in half again.





[https://www.google.com/search?q=ant+hill&hl=en&qscr=1&rlz=1T4TSNF\\_enUS446US446&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=CD1DUYTFZTVqAHw20GYAQ&sqi=2&ved=0CE0QsAQ&biw=1366&bih=589#imgsrc=FRCNovlr69HdM%3A%3BM3Q5ZVNXYZ852M%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.ant-farms.com%252Fimages%252Fant-hill.jpg%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.ant-farms.com%252Fant-hill.html%3B258%3B217](https://www.google.com/search?q=ant+hill&hl=en&qscr=1&rlz=1T4TSNF_enUS446US446&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=CD1DUYTFZTVqAHw20GYAQ&sqi=2&ved=0CE0QsAQ&biw=1366&bih=589#imgsrc=FRCNovlr69HdM%3A%3BM3Q5ZVNXYZ852M%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.ant-farms.com%252Fimages%252Fant-hill.jpg%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.ant-farms.com%252Fant-hill.html%3B258%3B217)

