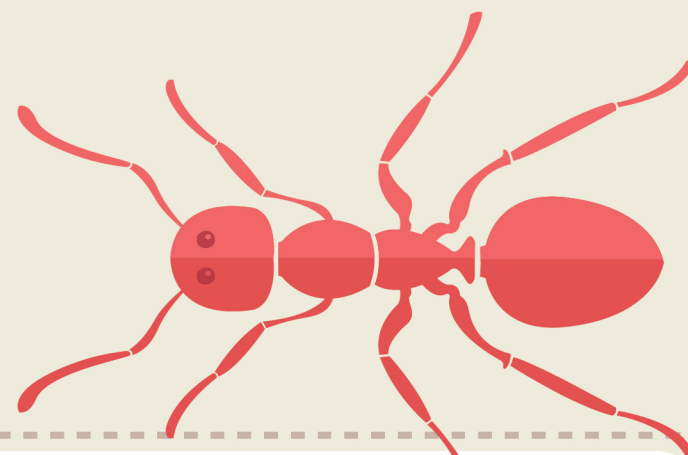


ALL ABOUT ANTS



MEET THE EXPERT

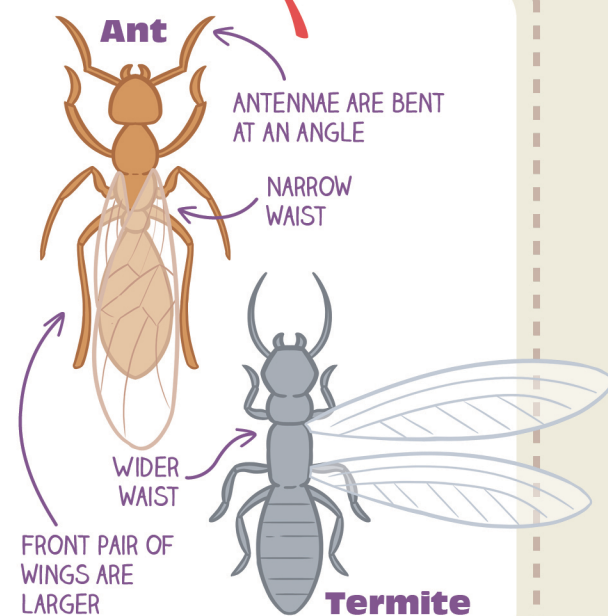
Meet Joyshree, the myrmecologist who is mad about ants.

? Why ants?

Joyshree: Well, many reasons! For one, ants are truly social animals just like humans. They live in well-organised colonies. Also, there are so many trillions of ants that their weight would account for about 15-20% of the total weight of all animals on land!

? How do I know if I'm looking at an ant or a termite?

Joyshree: Good question. Most of us mistake termites for ants. The differences are illustrated on the right.



Spy on an Ant family

What you need:

Some sugar, a bit of cardboard, a couple of stones and your field diary.

STEP 1:

Find an ant, follow it and locate its colony/nest.

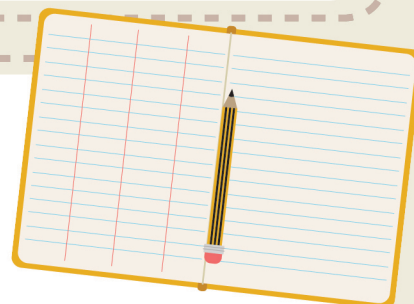
STEP 2:

A metre or so away from the nest (if you don't find a nest, an ant trail will do), where you see ants wandering about, place the cardboard, weigh it down with the stones and put the sugar on it.

STEP 3:

Note down the following in your field diary:

- How soon after you place the sugar do the ants find it?
- Record the number of ants on the site every 2 minutes, for 10 minutes.
- Do the same with different kinds of food like salt, lemon, green vegetables, a bit of a boiled egg, maybe even a dead insect. If you find a different kind of ant, compare their preferences.



HOW ANTS LIVE



WRITE TO US!

Have you seen an interesting ant family around you?

Send us your observations and drawings at edu@ncf-india.org!