

Driver Ants: All for One

Encyclopedia Article

¹ Ants can be found almost anywhere on earth. Over 8,000 different kinds have been discovered. One thing is the same for all ants: They have always looked like ants.

² Ants look the same today as they did when there were dinosaurs. That was 235 million years ago. Scientists found some ants from that time frozen in amber. Amber is tree sap, a sticky, gooey liquid. It hardened with the ants stuck inside. The old ants looked just like ants do now.

³ Most ants live in colonies. A colony has one very large queen, and she lays all the eggs. Most of the ants are females, but they don't lay eggs. The males die after mating with the queen. Every single ant in the colony has a special job.

⁴ The most fearsome ant of all lives in Africa. It is called the driver ant. There can be over 20 million driver ants in one colony.

⁵ In a driver ant colony, there are three main types of ants. There are the soldier ants that are larger than the worker ants. The soldiers have large mandibles that are like very sharp teeth. Their job is to protect the queen and the workers. But soldier ants can't feed themselves because of their teeth. It is the job of worker ants to get food to feed the queen and the soldier ants.

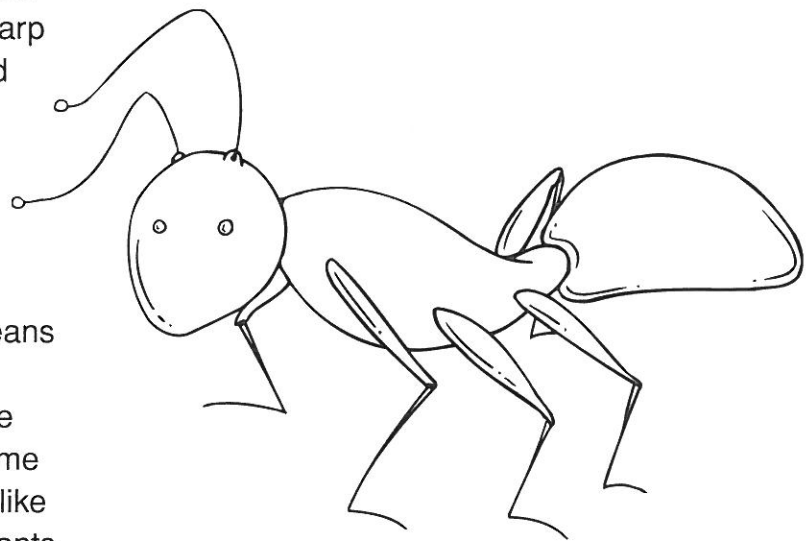
⁶ Driver ants are carnivorous, which means they eat meat. They will eat anything that cannot get away. Sometimes they eat large animals like cows. However, most of the time driver ants eat frogs, spiders, and insects like the cockroach and praying mantis. These ants

can capture more than 100,000 insects per day.

⁷ People in the jungle move out of their huts and village when they hear driver ants are on the move. After the ants are gone, they come back to a village that is free from insects.

⁸ Driver ants are nomads. They eat and then move on to find more food. The ants travel from place to place and make no permanent home. If the queen is laying eggs, the colony stops for a while. They make a nest out of themselves. Some of them form walls, and others form the ceiling. When the babies, which are called grubs, can travel, the colony moves on.

⁹ Nothing stops driver ants on the move. These ants work very well as a team. They can build a bridge by climbing and hooking onto each other until they reach the other side of a stream. The African driver ant has been known to form a ball and float a whole colony on water. What great cooperation!



Read and Think

Circle the correct answer.

- The main idea of this article is _____.
 - driver ants like to eat cows
 - ants can be found all over the world
 - driver ants are remarkable ants

Facts and details tell more about a main idea. Write the fact or detail in the blank.

- The most fearsome ant is the _____.
- Driver ants usually eat _____, _____, and _____.
- The three special jobs of the driver ants are _____, _____, and _____.
- Number the sentences in the order they happened.
 - _____ The grubs can travel.
 - _____ The queen is laying eggs.
 - _____ The ants make a nest out of themselves.
 - _____ They move on to find more food.

Cause is why something happens. **Effect** is what happens afterward. Circle the correct effect for the cause.

- When driver ants are on the move,
 - they hum as they go.
 - people move out of their way.
 - the queen lays eggs.

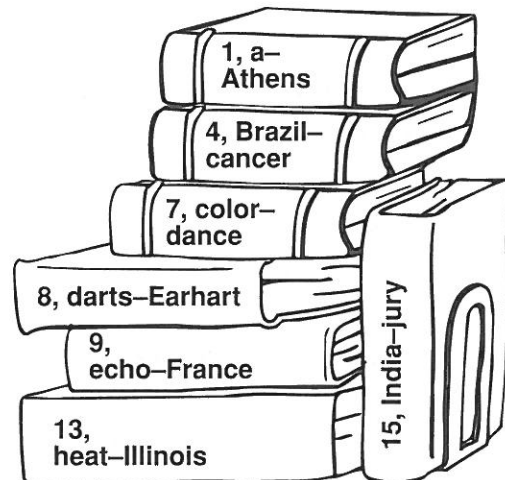
Language Skills

Write **C** if the sentence is complete. Write **I** if the sentence is incomplete.

- _____ Over 8,000 different kinds.
- _____ Ants are found almost anywhere on earth.
- _____ With the ants stuck inside.
- _____ After the ants are.
- _____ Driver ants are nomads.
- _____ These ants work very well as a team.

Study Hall

Topics in an encyclopedia are in alphabetical order. Write the number of the volume listed below in which you would find each topic.



- dinosaurs _____
- ants _____
- jungle _____
- insects _____
- Africa _____