

## LESSON – 13

# THE TINY TEACHER

### UNIT - I

#### A1. Pre-reading

##### Activity – 1



In the bubble on the left you find some facts about men. Choose the items which are common with ants and copy them in the bubble meant for the ants.

#### B1. Let's read.



- ❖ have different body colours.
- ❖ build their own houses
- ❖ work together
- ❖ use language to talk.
- ❖ wear clothes.
- ❖ store food for the future
- ❖ cook their food.
- ❖ live in small families.
- ❖ take care of babies.
- ❖ attack their enemies.
- ❖ keep pets.
- ❖ think intelligently.

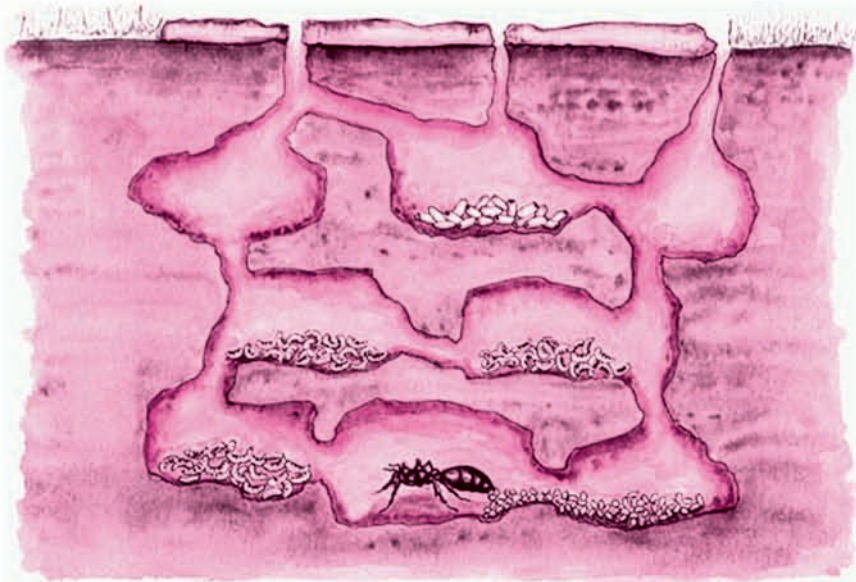


Now read the following story about ants and find out whether you have guessed rightly.

## THE TEXT

Name the insect that is the smallest and the wisest at the same time. Is it the fly ? No, it is not. Is it the mosquito ? No, not the mosquito. Then it must be the worm<sup>1</sup>. No, none of these. It is the ant, the commonest, the smallest but the wisest insect. The story of an ant's life sounds almost untrue, But people have kept ants and have watched their daily behaviour closely. So we know a number of facts about the tiny<sup>2</sup>, hard-working and intelligent creature.

An ant uses its feelers or antennae<sup>3</sup> to talk to other ants by passing message through them. Watch a row of ants moving up and down the wall. Each ant greets<sup>4</sup> all the others coming from opposite directions by touching their antennae.



There are many kinds of ants. The commonest among them are the black or red ones. We have seen them since we were children, but haven't paid enough attention to them. Where do they live ? They live in their, comfortable homes called 'nests' or 'anthills'. Each has hundreds of little rooms and passages<sup>5</sup>.

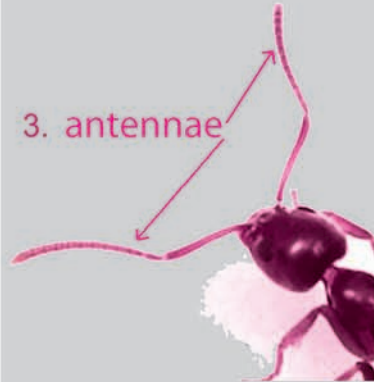
1. a small living thing without bone.

2. very small

3. antennae

4. friendly action that you do or say when you meet somebody.

5. ways for movement.





In some of these rooms in the anthill the queen ant lays eggs. Others are nurseries<sup>6</sup> for the young ones called grubs. Workers have their reserved quarters. They spend most of their time searching for food. Some rooms serve as store houses for their food. Soldiers have separate barracks<sup>7</sup>. No worker has ever tried to live in a soldier's house, no soldier has ever gone out searching for food. No worker or soldier or cleaner has ever harmed a grub. So you see, an ant's life is very peaceful. Each does its share of work intelligently and bravely, and never fights with their members of the group.

6. places where new babies are cared for.

7. rooms for soldiers.

## C1. Let's understand.

### ACTIVITY – 2 :

Fill in the blanks with the right words.

- Ants use their antennae to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to other ants.
- Only the \_\_\_\_\_ lays eggs.
- Soldier ants live in \_\_\_\_\_.
- Baby ants live in \_\_\_\_\_.

### ACTIVITY – 3

Write True or False in the boxes.

- Ants greet the other ants coming from the opposite direction.
- An anthill is a single big room .
- The young ants are called grubs.
- Ants are busy creatures.
- Any ant can live in any room in the anthill.


### ACTIVITY – 4

- Which is the smallest but wisest insect ?

Ans : .....

.....

b) How do ants 'talk' with each other ?

Ans : .....

.....

c) Where do the ants live ?

Ans : .....

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## UNIT – II

### A2 Pre-reading

You have learnt that :

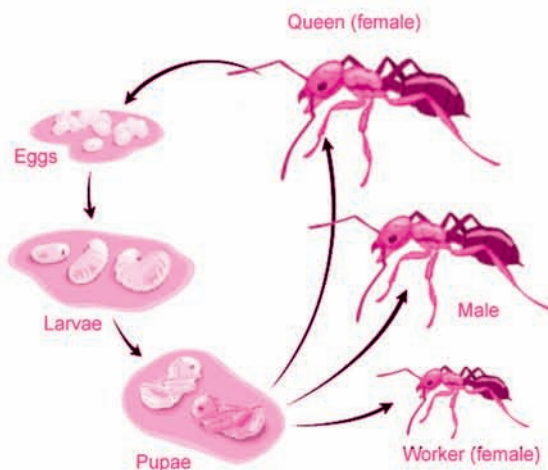
- ❖ ants are the smallest but wisest insects;
- ❖ they live in anthills having many rooms in them;
- ❖ they divide their work among themselves and each does its work sincerely.

Now read the text below to know :

- ❖ how the young ants are born;
- ❖ how they are trained;
- ❖ and why they allow some other insects to live in their anthills.

### B2. Let's read

The queen is the mother of the entire population of the ant colony. It lives for about fifteen years. It has a pair of wings. On a hot summer day, the queen leaves the nest and flies out to meet a male ant high up in the air. On its return to earth, it bites off its wings and then does nothing but lays eggs.





Eggs hatch<sup>8</sup> and grubs come out. Soldiers guard them. Workers clean and feed these young ants, and carry them about daily for airing, exercise and sunshine. Two or three weeks later, grubs become cocoons<sup>9</sup> and lie without food or activity for three weeks more. Then the cocoons break and perfect ants appear. Now it is time for teaching and training. New ants learn their duties from old ants, soldiers, builders and cleaners. After a few week's training the small ants are ready to go out into the big world of work.

An anthill is a home not only for ants but also for some other creatures- beetles<sup>10</sup>, lesser breed<sup>11</sup> of ants and the green fly<sup>12</sup>. Why do ants need these creatures to live in their nests ? For several reasons, some give off<sup>13</sup> smell pleasant to the ants' senses<sup>14</sup>, others give sweet juices and some are just pets or playthings like cats and dogs to human beings. The greenfly is the ants' cow. The ants train it to give honeydew (like milk) with a touch of their antennae. They milk it just as we milk the cow.

Have humans learned as much as ants have ? Perhaps they have, but they have not put their learning to good use. They may still learn a few things from this tiny teacher-hard work, sense of duty and discipline, cleanliness, care for the young ones and above all, a firm loyalty<sup>15</sup> to the land where they live.

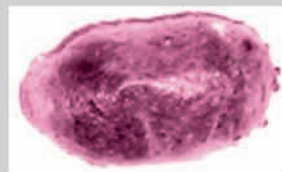
## C2 : Let's understand

### ACTIVITY – 5

Write True or False in the given box.

- The worker ants guard the grubs.
- Grubs become cocoons three weeks later.
- Ants keep greenflies to give them honeydew.

- break open to bring out up a young insect.



- coverings which an insect weaves around itself for protection



- insects with a hard covering on their back.

- inferior kind

- a very small green insect which eats up young plants.

- produce and send out.

- body parts that can see, smell, hear, taste and touch

- faithfulness

- d) The queen ant bites off its wings before it meets a male.
- e) Ants are very faithful to their homeland.

### ACTIVITY – 6

Answer the following questions.

- a) How long does the queen ant live ?

Ans : .....

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- b) What do the soldier ants and the worker ants do ?

Ans : .....

.....

- c) Who teaches the young ants their duties ?

Ans : .....

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- d) Which creatures other than the ants live in the anthill ?

Ans : .....

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- f) Why do ants allow green flies to live in the ant hill ?

Ans : .....

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### D. Let's look at the words.

### ACTIVITY – 7

Fill in the blanks, choosing from the words given in the box .

nurseries, hatch, greet, birth, lay

- a) The cow gives \_\_\_\_ to a calf.

- b) Birds \_\_\_\_ eggs.

- c) Eggs \_\_\_\_ into baby birds.

- d) Babies live in \_\_\_\_.

- e) We should \_\_\_\_ people when we meet them.

### ACTIVITY-8 :

Fill in the blanks, using the phrases given in the box.

fly out, bite off, come out, give off, go out

- a) Dead animals \_\_\_\_ a lot of bad smell.
- b) Please \_\_\_\_ a piece of this cake.
- c) Rats \_\_\_\_ of their holes at night.
- d) Birds often \_\_\_\_ of their nests to collect food.
- e) Children \_\_\_\_ into the field to play.

### ACTIVITY-9

Write the names of animals against the places they live in. The names of the animals are given in the box below. You can use a dictionary, if necessary.

rabbit, lion, bee, sheep, cow, dog

- beehive :
- cowshed :
- kennel :
- burrow :
- pen :



## E. Let's learn the language

### Activity – 10 :

Complete the sentences of the dialogue, using *never* or *ever* in the blanks.

Rosy : Do you \_\_\_\_ go to school on Sundays ?

Betty : No, I \_\_\_\_ do. I remain at home on Sundays.

Rosy : What do you do then ? Do you sleep the whole day ?

Betty : No, I \_\_\_\_ sleep during the day time. Nobody in my family \_\_\_\_ sleeps in day.



Rosy : Can we then go to the theatre this Sunday ?

Betty : Sorry, I have \_\_\_\_ liked going to a theatre.

### Activity – 11 :

Complete the passage using *some of*, *none of*, *most of*, *one of*, *any of* in the blanks. You can use each item once only.

I went to a shop to buy a dress. The shopkeeper showed me \_\_\_\_ the dresses he had. \_\_\_\_ dresses were beautiful, but the others were not. Finally, I picked \_\_\_\_ the dresses I liked. Unfortunately, it did not fit me. So he showed me five more. But \_\_\_\_ them interested me. I returned home without buying \_\_\_\_ them.

## F. Let's talk

### ACTIVITY -12

The teacher will divide the class into two groups to have a debate competition in the class. The topic of the debate is "Ants are better than men". One group will speak in favour of the topic and others against it. At the end of the debate, the teacher sums up the ideas presented in the debate.

## G. Let's write

### ACTIVITY – 13

Complete the passage on the lives of bees using the words and phrases given in the box below.



- is interesting
- each individual bee
- live and work together in a group
- in a place called beehive
- collect honey and pollen
- protect the hive
- lays eggs
- fan the beehive
- look after the queen bee.



Bees like ants are social insects because they \_\_\_\_\_.  
The life-story of bees \_\_\_\_\_. They live \_\_\_\_\_.  
\_\_\_\_\_ has a job to do. The queen bee \_\_\_\_\_. The worker  
bees \_\_\_\_\_ and nurse the babies. Some others  
\_\_\_\_\_ from the flowers. There are bees who  
\_\_\_\_\_ with their wings to keep it cool. The soldier bees  
\_\_\_\_\_ from the attackers. What wonderful  
creatures!

### Activity – 14

One morning you went to your garden. There you saw many beautiful plants, flowers, birds and insects. Write a paragraph on what you saw there and what the birds and insects were doing.

#### ONE MORNING IN MY GARDEN.

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