

## CHAPTER- 15

# Ants

It's a very common sight to see an army of ants moving in a row, dragging a dead insect or attacking food items. It's interesting to watch them do so.

**Where do you get to see the ants?**

~~~~~

**What are the various colours of ants that you get to see?**

~~~~~

Now, let us observe the ants minutely. Go and get a big ant from somewhere. If you could get a big, black coloured ant it would be easy to observe it.

Use a hand lens to see the ant. Ask your teacher to help you know how a hand lens is used.

### The Ants' body

With the help of a hand lens, see the ant. Now tell, how many parts is its body divided into? Compare the ant with the picture given.

**With the help of a handlens, observe what you can see in the picture.**



### The Head

Using a hand lens, observe the head of the ant. On the fore-head are two antenas/whiskers which help it to know the atmosphere, like- temperature, smell etc.



**Name any two creatures found around you which have the similar structure of the head.**

---

**Can you see the eyes of the ant? How many eyes does it have?**

---

**Can you see eye lashes on its eyes?**

---

### **The Legs**

**Looking at the ant, tell how many legs does it have?**

~~~~~

**Can you name some other creatures who have 6 legs?**

---

### **Stomach**

The portion below the chest is called stomach. Try and see the ant's stomach with a hand lens. Are there any organ attached to it?

**Name the creatures with the same body structure.**

~~~~~

Which other organism have you seen, whose body is divided into three parts as ants.

~~~~~

### **The Wings**

Have you ever seen ants with wings? When do they appear? Find from your elders.

### **Do Ants Talk?**

Look for a place around you where the ants are moving in a line. Now watch them carefully. Are the ants moving only in one direction or are they going to and fro? What are the ants doing while moving in a line?



If you watch them carefully, you'll see that they touch each others mouth and then move ahead. It seems as if they are talking to each other.

Wipe off the path on which they are moving with a wet cloth. Take care that no physical harm is caused to the ants.

**Now tell, did the wiping off their path with a wet cloth cause any difference in their movements. Write your observations.**

~~~~~

Many years ago scientists did such experiments. They came to the conclusion that ants, leave some substance behind which is smelled by the ant coming behind and thus they find in their path.

Have you ever been upset by the mosquitoes. Think how they come to know where you are? Mosquitoes find you by your body smell especially from the soles of the feet and also by your body heat.

Have you see any dog smelling something here & there?

A dog can identify that another dog has entered his territory by the smell of urine and faeces of the other dog.

Where can we use the dog's quality of identifying by smell? We also have the quality of smelling.

On which occasions do you need your quality of smell?

For example - By smelling we come to know that the food is spoiled. We also can smell and know that something is burning.

### Chapada ¼ ki Mk ½

There is a special kind of ant, which is commonly known as Chapada in Bastar.

Find out, which are the tree on which chapada or red ants are found.

This red coloured ant makes its nest on trees by sticking leaves and live in it in a group. Living in a group has its own advantages. eg. when you work together with your friends, the task is easily accomplished.



**List the different tasks which become easy if done in a group.**

---



---

### How do the red ants stick the leaves?

From where do the ants get the substance to stick leaves? Let us try to understand.

In a group of ants, there is one male ant, one queen ant and the rest are all labourers. The queen ant only lays eggs.

To stick the leaves, the labourer ants use their babies as aids and they provide the sticky substance from within them.

It's interesting to know that the adult ants cannot make this sticky substance.



### This is How the nest looks like

Hundreds of labourer ants, with the help of baby ants, stick leaves to make a nest. These red ants hold the white coloured baby ants in their mouths and squeeze them as we squeeze a gum tube, and a sticky substance comes out. This substance is used to stick leaves.

The entire process seems to be a mechanised one.

Try to look for a dried nest on a tree and see for yourself how the leaves are glued to each other. Also look for the place where the ants live.

### The Red Ant Sauce (Chutney)

The tribals of Bastar ground the red ants, their eggs and their babies to make chutney. To make this chutney, they collect ants from the trees and ground them on a stone. Chilly and local spices are added to it.

This chutney tastes sour due to the presence of some sour substance present in the body of the ants. It is eaten with great fondness.

In Bastar these tribals can be seen selling this sauce in clay pots.

In some places, these red ants are boiled in water and given to patients suffering from fever and asthma.

What are the red ants called in your area? Find and write.

### Different varieties of chutney

Name the different varieties of chutneys you've eaten and their main ingredients in the table given.

S.	Name of the chutney	Ingredients used?	How does it taste?
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

**Which chutney is eaten in which season? Which chutney do you like the best?**

Find out from people at home, the ingredients used to make any one chutney and note them. Write its method, in your copy.

### What Have We Learnt?

#### Oral

1. Ants move one behind one in a line. How do they do so?
2. How many legs do the ants have?

**Written**

1. The body of an ant is made up of how many sections ?
2. Where are the ants normally found?
3. How do the red ants make their nests?

**Look Around You**

1. Observe the nests of the ants. Do different ants make different kinds of nests?
2. Many people feed the ants with wheat flour, sugar etc. and protect their nests. What is the belief behind this?
3. You must have seen ants carrying dead insects in their mouths. In comparison to their weight, how much weight can they lift? Guess.
4. Think, how ants are able to enter a packed container of food items? They cannot see the sweets, then how can they reach the container containing sweets?
5. Sometime ants bite also. Find out what treatment is given in ant bite?

