

GRADES 2-3

READ, RESEARCH, AND WRITE

ANTS AND COLONIES

ANIMAL RESEARCH

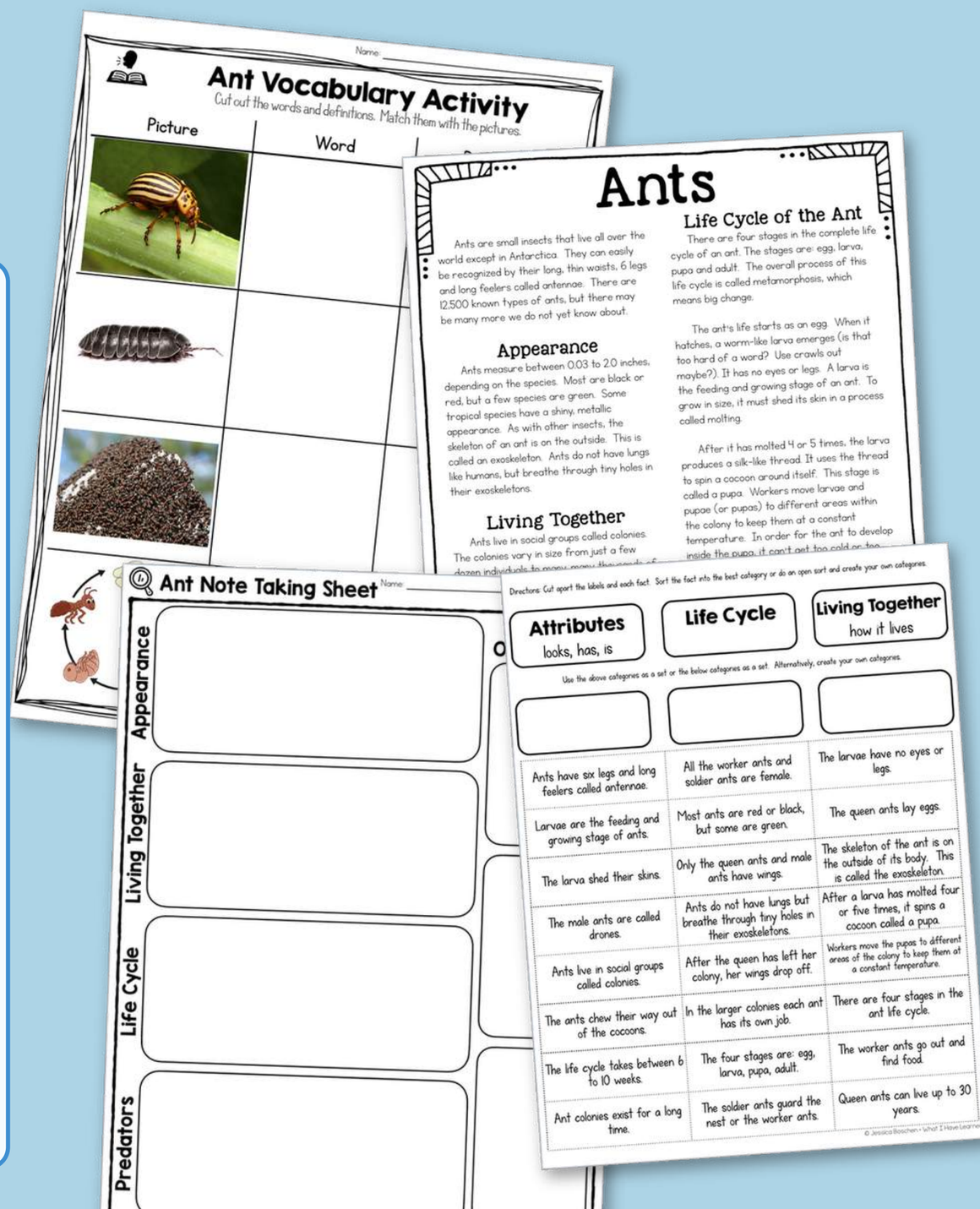
Informational Articles, Activities, and Writing

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

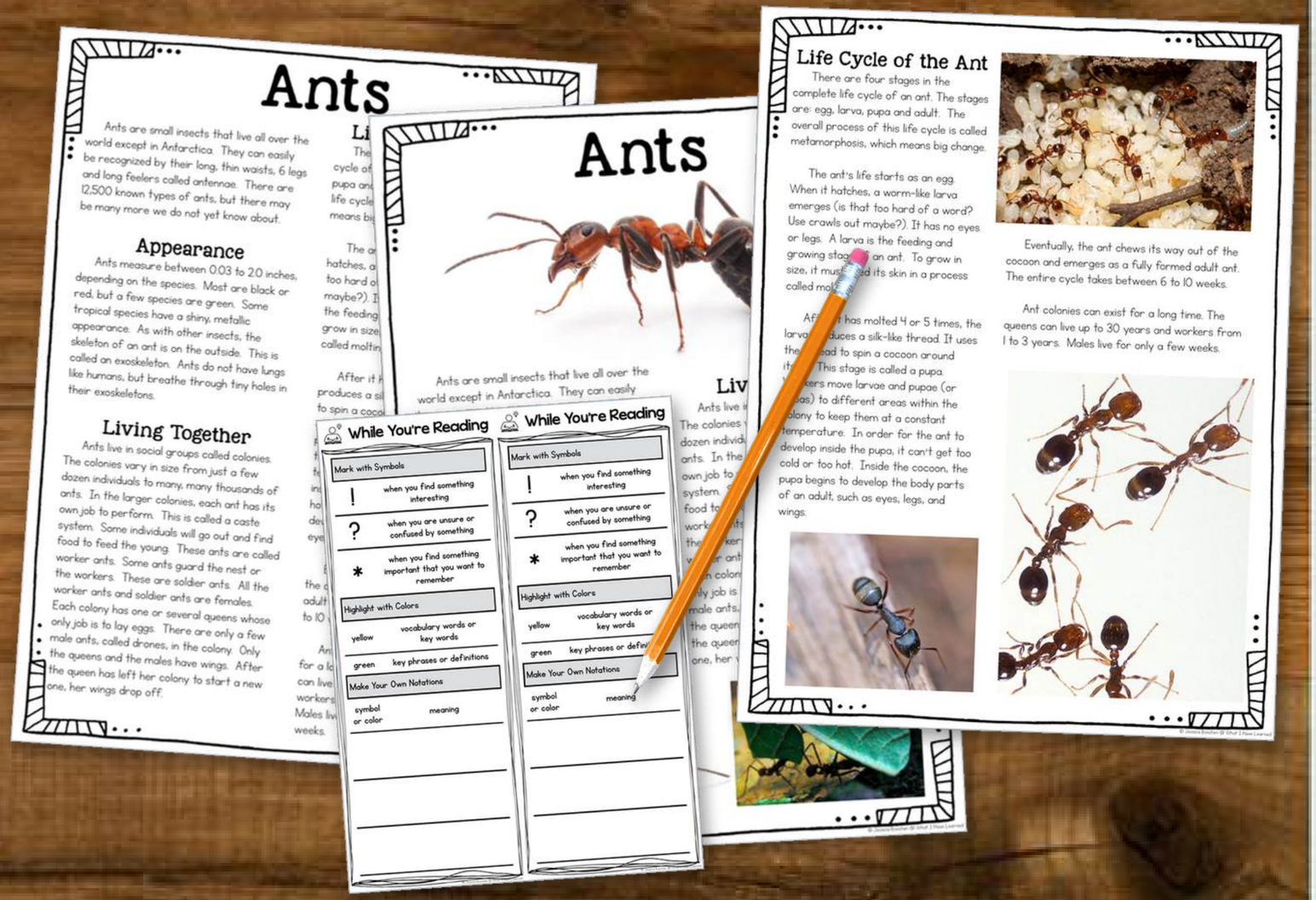
WHAT'S INCLUDED

Read, research, and write

- 1-page and 2-page informational articles
- Vocabulary cards and cut-and-paste activities
- Note-taking organizers and comprehension questions
- Fact sort activities
- Informational writing pages
- Answer keys included
- QR codes for safe video research



READ



Article comes in two formats.

Meet an animal in its habitat

1 ARTICLE

Students read a clear informational article about ants and colonies.

2 NOTICE DETAILS

Students look for facts about the ants and colonies's appearance, habitat, diet, and behavior.

3 DIFFERENT FORMATS

Teachers choose the article format that fits students' reading needs.

RESEARCH



Research pages make independent fact gathering manageable

Gather facts about ants and colonies

1 WATCH AND RESEARCH

Students use one QR-code page to find a safe video source for research about ants and colonies.

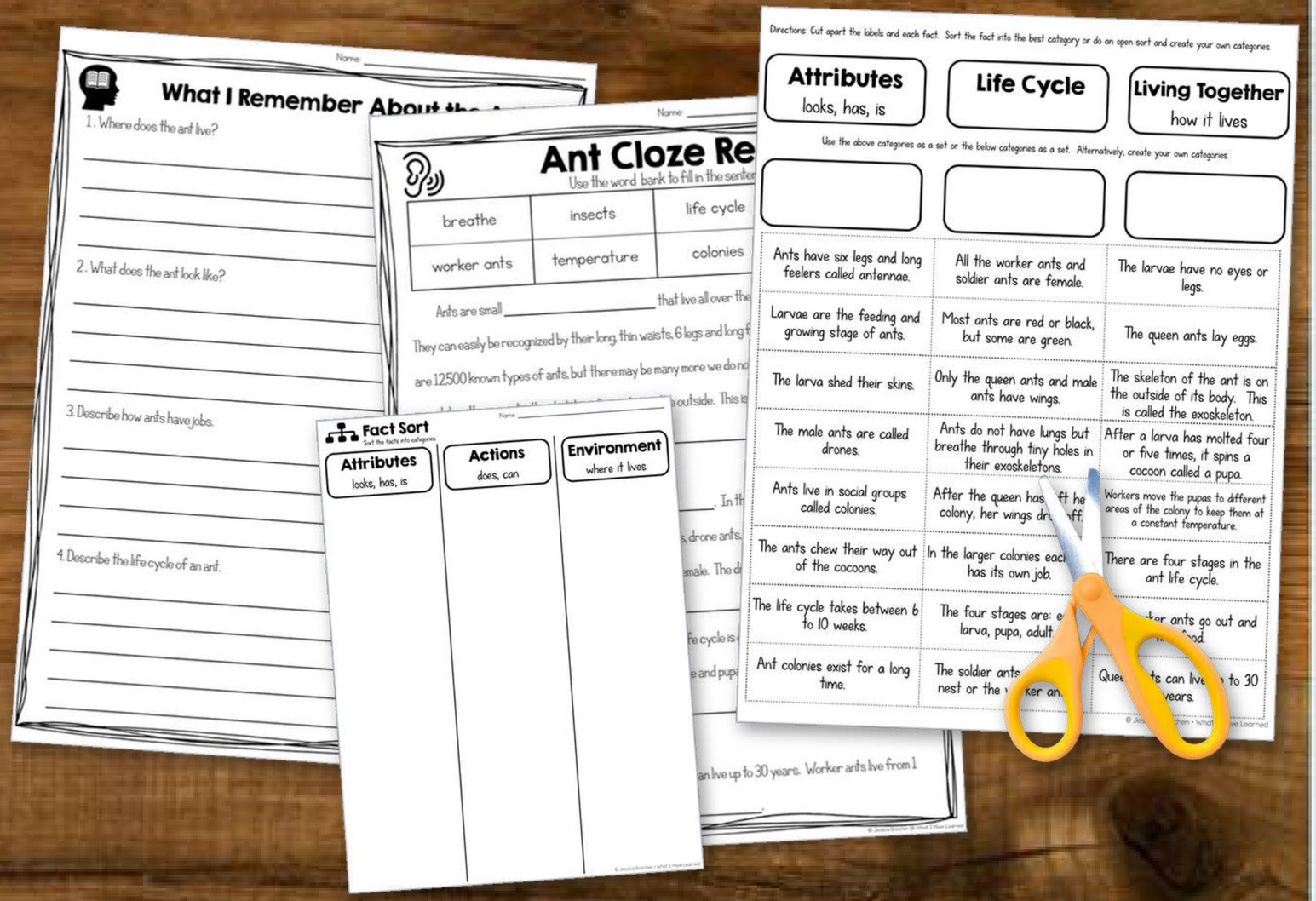
2 TAKE NOTES

Students record facts about the ants and colonies's body, habitat, behavior, and life cycle.

3 BUILD VOCABULARY

Students use picture cards and activities to practice important animal words.

ORGANIZE



Comprehension and sorting pages prepare students to write

Sort facts about ants and colonies

1 REMEMBER

Students recall important facts after reading about ants and colonies.

2 CHECK UNDERSTANDING

Students complete a cloze activity using key vocabulary and facts.

3 SORT FACTS

Students organize information into clear categories before writing.

WRITE



From organized notes to a finished informational report

Turn notes into an ants and colonies report

1 PLAN

Students use note-taking pages to collect and organize research.

2 SUMMARIZE

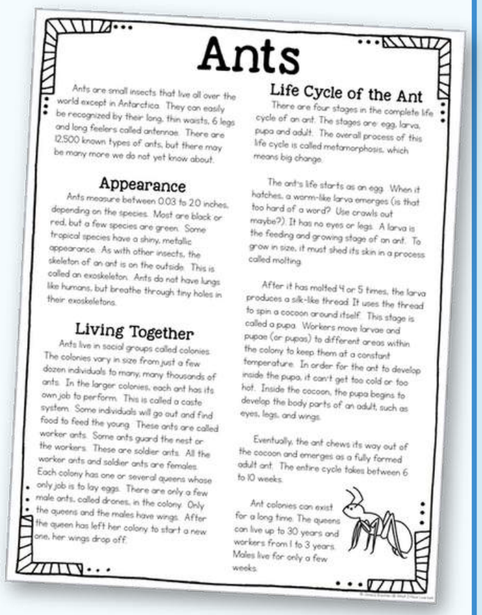
Students turn facts into a focused summary about ants and colonies.

3 WRITE

Students use report pages to explain what they learned.

FROM READING TO ANIMAL RESEARCH WRITING

READ


Ants

Ants are small insects that live all over the world except in Antarctica. They can easily be recognized by their long, thin waists, 6 legs and long feelers called antennae. There are 12,500 known types of ants, but there may be many more we do not yet know about.

Appearance

Ants measure between 0.03 to 2.0 inches, depending on the species. Most are black or red, but a few species are green. Some tropical species have a shiny, metallic appearance. As with other insects, the skeleton of an ant is on the outside. This is called an exoskeleton. Ants do not have lungs like humans, but breathe through tiny holes in their exoskeletons.

Living Together

Ants live in social groups called colonies. The colonies vary in size from just a few dozen individuals to many, many thousands of ants. In the larger colonies, each ant has its own job to perform. This is called a caste system. Some individuals will go out and find food to feed the young. These ants are called worker ants. Some ants guard the nest or the workers. These are soldier ants. All the worker ants and soldier ants are females. Each colony has one or several queens whose only job is to lay eggs. There are only a few male ants, called drones, in the colony. Only the queens and the males have wings. After the queen has left her colony to start a new one, her wings drop off.

Life Cycle of the Ant

There are four stages in the complete life cycle of an ant. The stages are: egg, larva, pupa and adult. The overall process of this life cycle is called metamorphosis, which means big change.

The ant's life starts as an egg. When it hatches, a worm-like larva emerges (is that too hard of a word? Use crawls out maybe?). It has no eyes or legs. A larva is the feeding and growing stage of an ant. To grow in size, it must shed its skin in a process called molting.

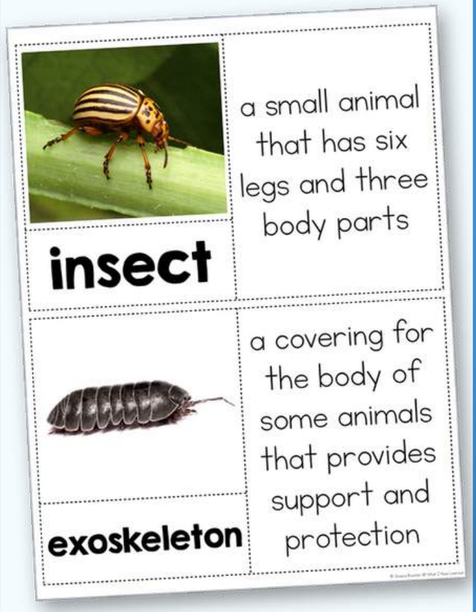
After it has molted 4 or 5 times, the larva produces a silk-like thread. It uses the thread to spin a cocoon around itself. This stage is called a pupa. Workers move larvae and pupae (or pupas) to different areas within the colony to keep them at a constant temperature. In order for the ant to develop inside the pupa, it can't get too cold or too hot. Inside the cocoon, the pupa begins to develop the body parts of an adult, such as eyes, legs, and wings.

Eventually, the ant chews its way out of the cocoon and emerges as a fully formed adult ant. The entire cycle takes between 6 to 10 weeks.

Ant colonies can exist for a long time. The queens can live up to 30 years and workers from 1 to 3 years. Males live for only a few weeks.

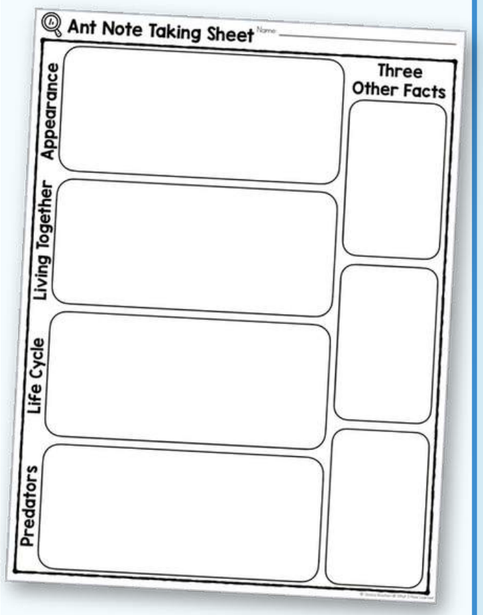
Read an informational article about ants and colonies in a format that fits your students.

LEARN



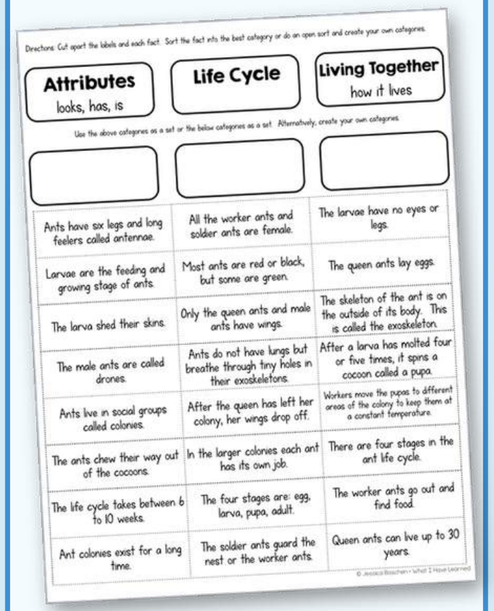
Build vocabulary with picture cards and activities about ants and colonies features and habitats.

RESEARCH



Gather facts about the ants and colonies's appearance, habitat, diet, and behavior.

ORGANIZE


Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Life Cycle	Living Together how it lives
Ants have six legs and long feelers called antennae.	All the worker ants and soldier ants are female.	The larvae have no eyes or legs.
Larvae are the feeding and growing stage of ants.	Most ants are red or black, but some are green.	The queen ants lay eggs.
The larva shed their skins.	Only the queen ants and male ants have wings.	The skeleton of the ant is on the outside of its body. This is called the exoskeleton.
The male ants are called drones.	Ants do not have lungs but breathe through tiny holes in their exoskeletons.	After a larva has molted four or five times, it spins a cocoon called a pupa.
Ants live in social groups called colonies.	After the queen has left her colony, her wings drop off.	Workers move the pupas to different areas of the colony to keep them at a constant temperature.
The ants chew their way out of the cocoons.	In the larger colonies each ant has its own job.	There are four stages in the ant life cycle.
The life cycle takes between 6 to 10 weeks.	The four stages are: egg, larva, pupa, adult.	The worker ants go out and find food.
Ant colonies exist for a long time.	The soldier ants guard the nest or the worker ants.	Queen ants can live up to 30 years.

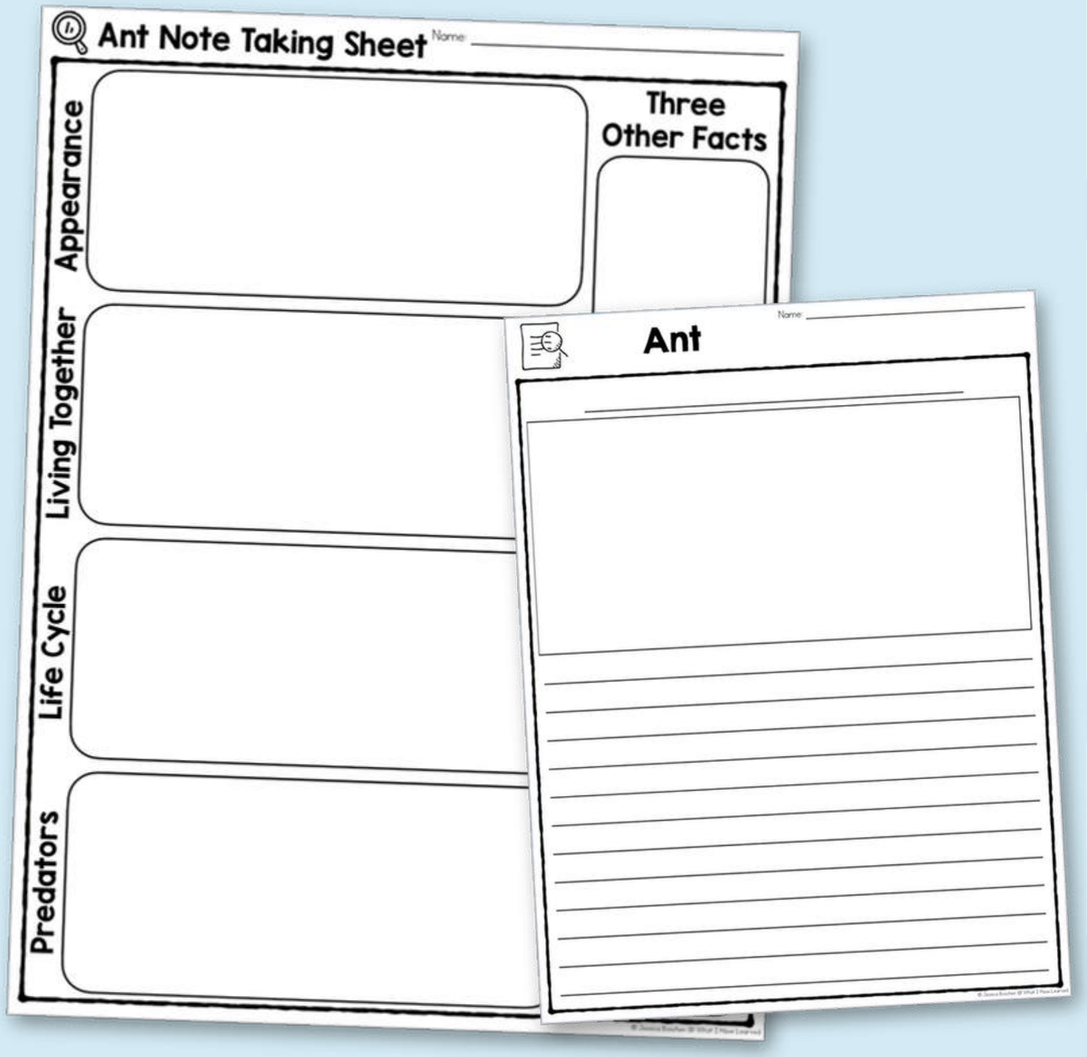
Sort facts into appearance, habitat, behavior, and life cycle categories.

WRITE



Use the writing pages to turn notes into an animal research report about ants and colonies.

WAYS TO USE THIS RESOURCE



1

ANIMAL STUDY

Use the articles and vocabulary pages during a science or nonfiction unit about ants and colonies.

2

GUIDED READING

Choose the article format and comprehension pages that fit your readers.

3

ANIMAL RESEARCH

Use QR-code research and note-taking sheets to collect facts from multiple sources.

4

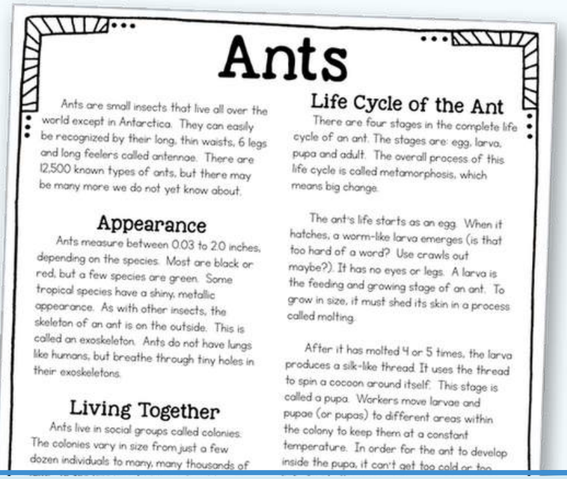
INFORMATIONAL WRITING

Move from organized notes to a clear report about ants and colonies.

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE

PERFECT FOR SCIENCE AND ELA

Students read, write, sort, and research while learning about ants and colonies adaptations and habitats.


Ants

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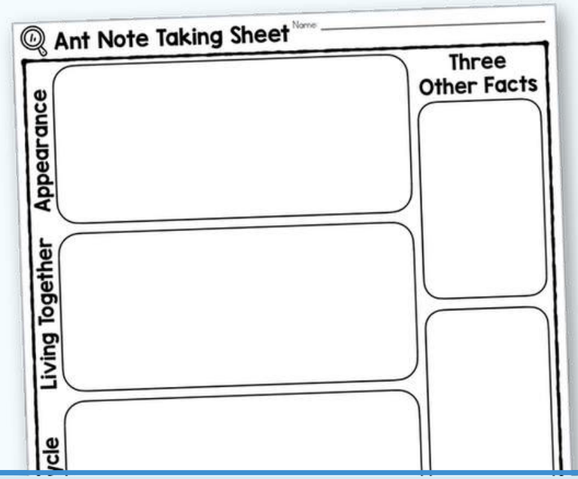
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SAVES TIME WITH CONSISTENT LAYOUTS

Clear article, activity, and writing pages make planning simple and support independent work.


Ant Note Taking Sheet

Name:

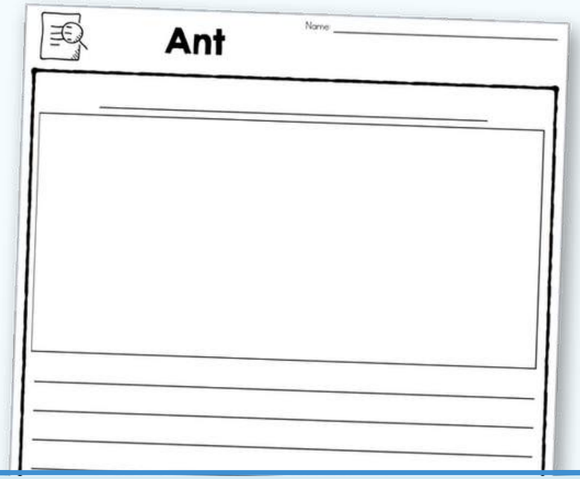
Three Other Facts

Appearance

Living Together

SUPPORTS ANIMAL RESEARCH

Vocabulary cards, fact sorts, and note-taking organizers help students prepare an informational report.


Ant

Name:

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

★★★★★

This resource worked really well to complement the curriculum I use, I was able to give the passages out for reading assignments to my kiddos who don't have access to books at home, so it counted for reading on their reading logs!

Christy T.

★★★★★

Great resource! Thank you! :)

Cheerful Teaching

★★★★★

Great for science and reading!

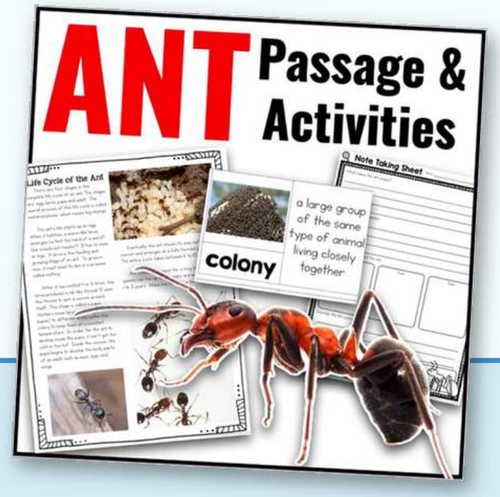
Gina H.





READY FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

- **Informational articles in two formats**
- **Vocabulary, comprehension, and research activities**
- **Note-taking and informational writing pages**



My passion is making learning accessible to all students.
I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections.
I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



teach MATH | teach SCIENCE | teach READING | teach WRITING

What I have LEARNED