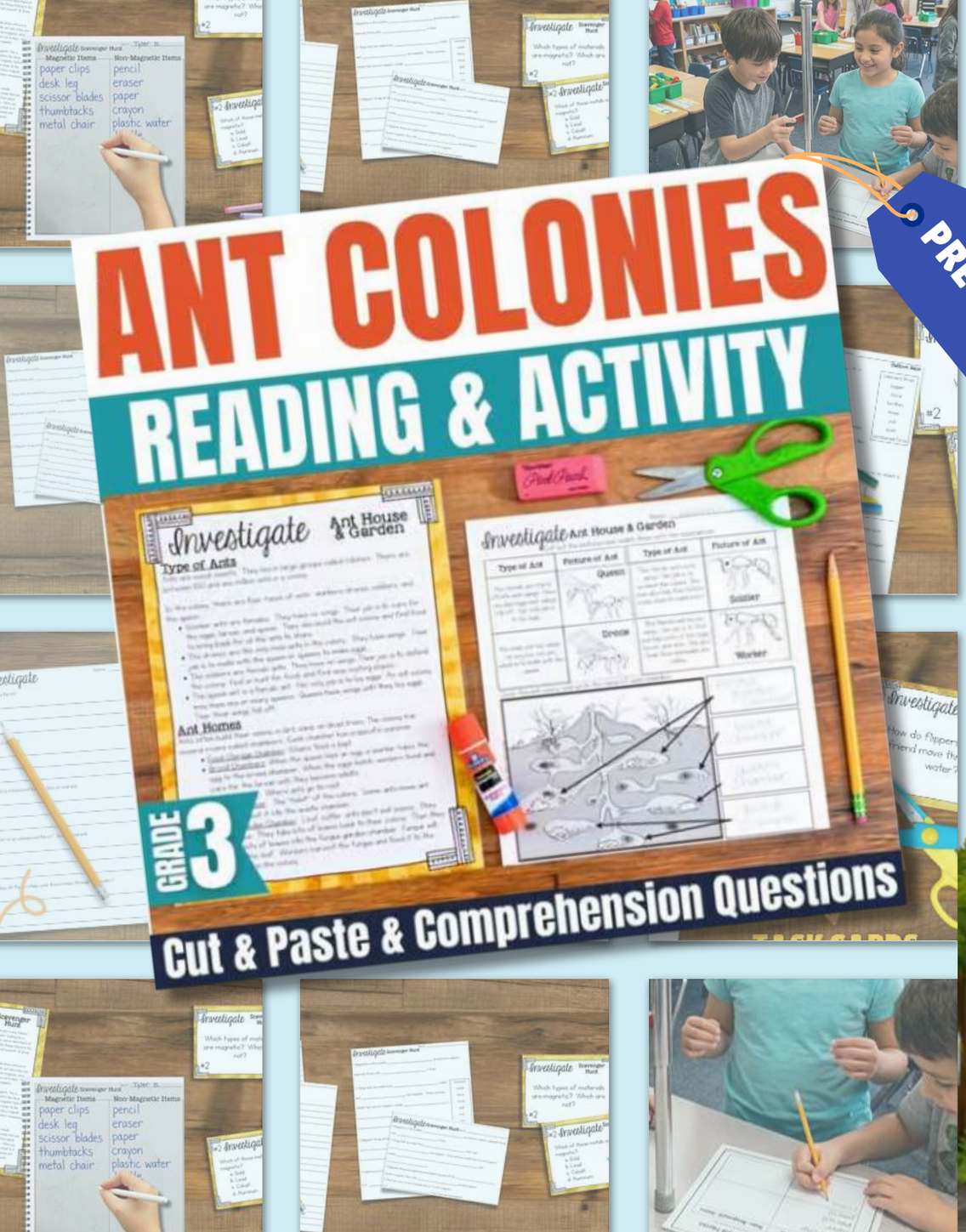


What Really Happens Inside an Ant Colony?

3RD GRADE

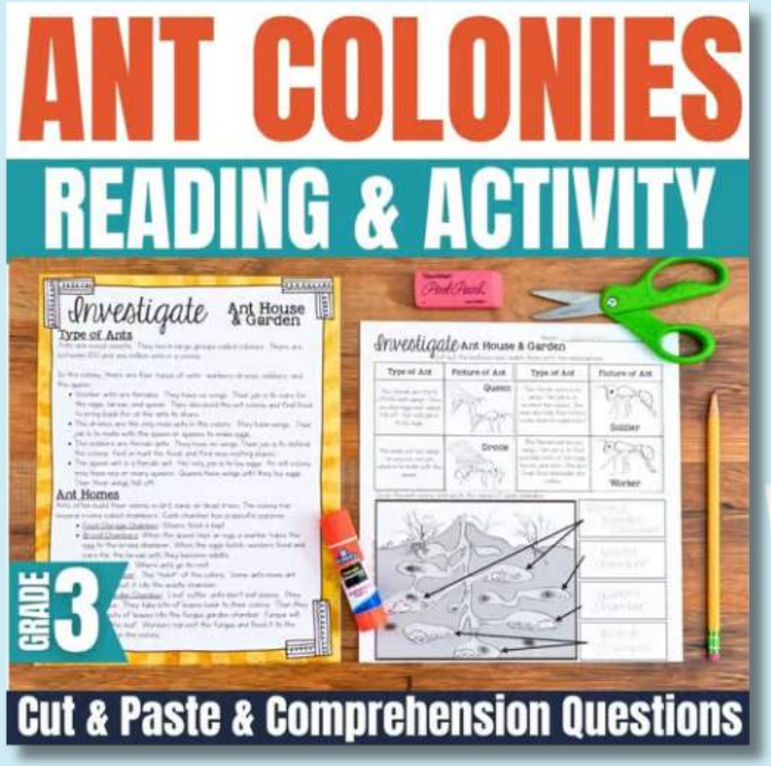
INVESTIGATE

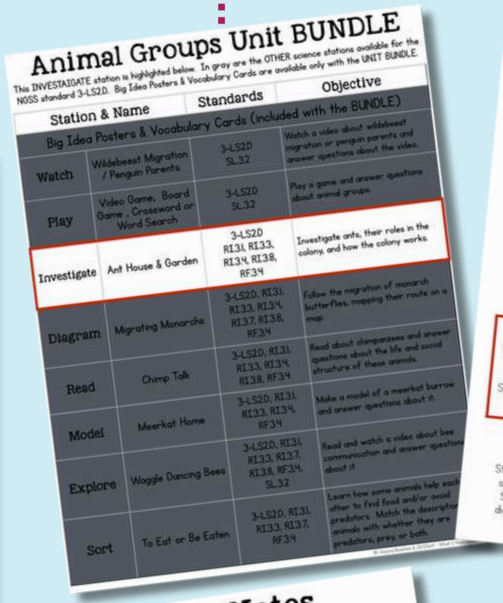
ANT COLONIES

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!



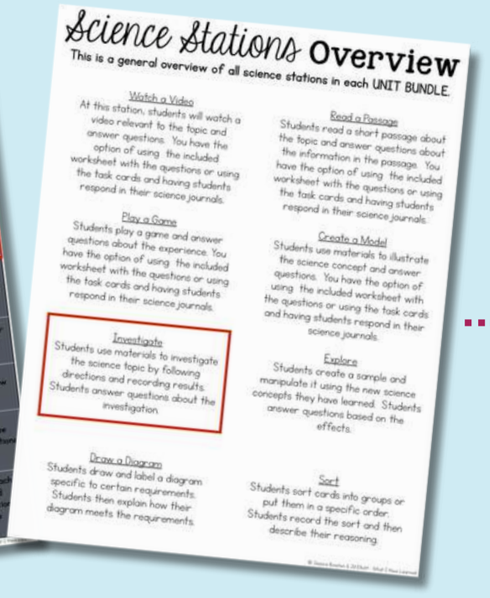
ACTIVITY OVERVIEW




Animal Groups Unit BUNDLE

This INVESTIGATE station is highlighted below. In gray are the OTHER science stations available for the NGSS standard 3-LS2D. Big Idea Posters & Vocabulary Cards are available only with the UNIT BUNDLE.

Station & Name		Standards	Objective
Big Idea Posters & Vocabulary Cards (included with the BUNDLE)			
Watch	Wildebeest Migration / Penguin Parents	3-LS2D SL.3.2	Watch a video about wildebeest migration or penguin parents and answer questions about the video.
Play	Video Game, Board Game, Crossword or Word Search	3-LS2D SL.3.2	Play a game and answer questions about animal groups.
Investigate	Ant House & Garden	3-LS2D RI.3.1, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.8, RF.3.4	Investigate ants, their roles in the colony, and how the colony works.
Diagram	Migrating Monarchs	3-LS2D, RI.3.1, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.7, RI.3.8, RF.3.4	Follow the migration of monarch butterflies, mapping their route on a map.
Read	Chimp Talk	3-LS2D, RI.3.1, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.8, RF.3.4	Read about chimpanzees and answer questions about the life and social structure of these animals.
Model	Meerkat Home	3-LS2D, RI.3.1, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RF.3.4	Make a model of a meerkat burrow and answer questions about it.
Explore	Waggle Dancing Bees	3-LS2D, RI.3.1, RI.3.3, RI.3.7, RI.3.8, RF.3.4, SL.3.2	Read and watch a video about bee communication and answer questions about it.
Sort	To Eat or Be Eaten	3-LS2D, RI.3.1, RI.3.3, RI.3.7, RF.3.4	Learn how some animals help each other to find food and/or avoid predators. Match the descriptions of animals with whether they are predators, prey, or both.


Science Stations Overview

This is a general overview of all science stations in each UNIT BUNDLE.

Watch a Video
At this station, students will watch a video relevant to the topic and answer questions. You have the option of using the included worksheet with the questions or using the task cards and having students respond in their science journals.

Play a Game
Students play a game and answer questions about the experience. You have the option of using the included worksheet with the questions or using the task cards and having students respond in their science journals.

Investigate
Students use materials to investigate the science topic by following directions and recording results. Students answer questions about the investigation.

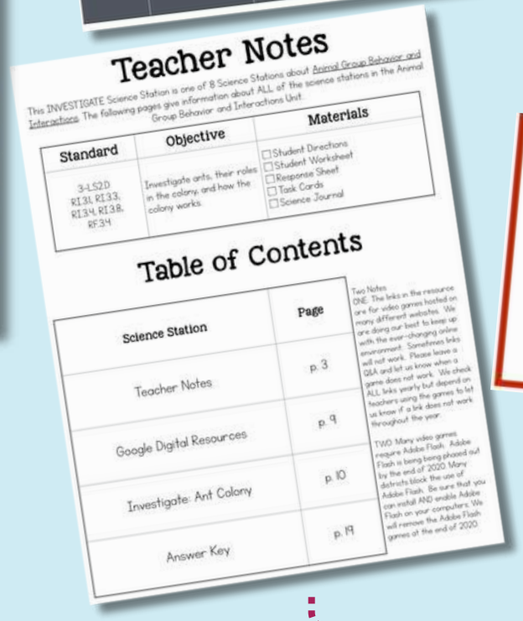
Draw a Diagram
Students draw and label a diagram specific to certain requirements. Students then explain how their diagram meets the requirements.

Read a Passage
Students read a short passage about the topic and answer questions about the information in the passage. You have the option of using the included worksheet with the questions or using the task cards and having students respond in their science journals.

Create a Model
Students use materials to illustrate the science concept and answer questions. You have the option of using the included worksheet with the questions or using the task cards and having students respond in their science journals.

Explore
Students create a sample and manipulate it using the new science concepts they have learned. Students answer questions based on the effects.

Sort
Students sort cards into groups or put them in a specific order. Students record the sort and then describe their reasoning.


Teacher Notes

This INVESTIGATE Science Station is one of 8 Science Stations about Animal Group Behavior and Interactions. The following pages give information about ALL of the science stations in the Animal Group Behavior and Interactions Unit.

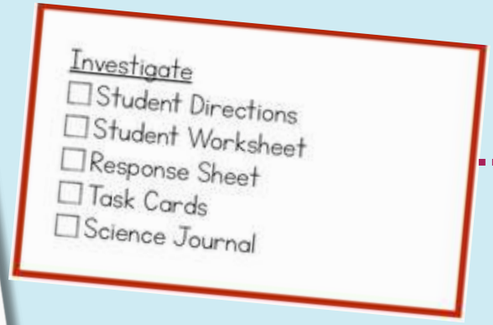
Standard	Objective	Materials
3-LS2D RI.3.1, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.8, RF.3.4	Investigate ants, their roles in the colony, and how the colony works	☐ Student Directions ☐ Student Worksheet ☐ Response Sheet ☐ Task Cards ☐ Science Journal

Table of Contents

Science Station	Page
Teacher Notes	p. 3
Google Digital Resources	p. 9
Investigate: Ant Colony	p. 10
Answer Key	p. 19

Two Notes
ONE: The links in the resource are for video games hosted on many different websites. We are doing our best to keep up with the ever-changing online environment. Sometimes links will not work. Please leave a Q&A and let us know when a game does not work. We check ALL links yearly but depend on teachers using the games to let us know if a link does not work throughout the year.

TWO: Many video games require Adobe Flash. Adobe Flash is being phased out by the end of 2020. Many districts block the use of Adobe Flash. Be sure that you can install AND enable Adobe Flash on your computers. We will remove the Adobe Flash games at the end of 2020.


Investigate
☐ Student Directions
☐ Student Worksheet
☐ Response Sheet
☐ Task Cards
☐ Science Journal

Unit Bundle

Science Station Overview

Materials Checklist

Teacher Notes & Table of Contents

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INVESTIGATE SCIENCE STATION

- **Teacher Notes** and **Materials List**
- **Reading passage**
- **Differentiated worksheets**
- **Science journal prompts** and response sheets
- **Printable task cards** for classroom station rotation
- **Answer Key**
- **Google Form™**
- **Google Slides™**



INVESTIGATE: READING PASSAGE

Investigate Ant House & Garden

Type of Ants

Ants are social insects. They live in large groups called colonies. There are between 100 and one million ants in a colony.

In the colony, there are four types of ants: workers, drones, soldiers, and the queen.

- Worker ants are females. They have no wings. Their job is to care for the eggs, larvae, and queen. They also build the ant colony and find food to bring back for all the ants to share.
- The drones are the only male ants in the colony. They have wings. Their job is to mate with the queen or queens to make eggs.
- The soldiers are female ants. They have no wings. Their job is to defend the colony, find or hunt for food, and find new nesting places.
- The queen ant is a female ant. Her only job is to lay eggs. An ant colony may have one or many queens. Queens have wings until they lay eggs. Then their wings fall off.

Ant Homes

Ants often build their colony in dirt, sand, or dead trees. The colony has several rooms called **chambers**. Each chamber has a specific purpose.

- Food Storage Chamber: Where food is kept.
- Brood Chambers: When the queen lays an egg, a worker takes the egg to the brood chamber. When the eggs hatch, workers feed and care for the larvae until they become adults.
- Rest Chamber: Where ants go to rest.
- Waste Chamber: The "toilet" of the colony. Some ants move ant waste and put
- Fu
  fu
  b

Workers ha

© Jessica Boechler

Investigate Ant House & Garden

Name: _____

Type of Ants

Ants are social insects. They live in large groups called colonies. There are between 100 and one million ants in a colony.

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- Brood Chambers: When the queen lays an egg, a worker takes the egg to the brood chamber. When the eggs hatch, workers feed and care for the larvae until they become adults.
- Rest Chamber: Where ants go to rest.
- Waste Chamber: The "toilet" of the colony. Some ants move ant waste and put it into the waste chamber.
- Fungus Garden Chamber: Leaf cutter ants don't eat leaves. They eat fungus. They take bits of leaves back to their colony. Then they put the bits of leaves into the fungus garden chamber. Fungus will grow on the leaf. Workers harvest the fungus and feed it to the other ants in the colony.



READING PASSAGE


Investigate
Ant House & Garden
Materials
Student sheets
Scissors
Glue
Markers
Instructions
Read the text about types of ants and ant homes.
1. Cut out the pictures of each ant and match
2. Look at the pictures of the ant colony below
the ant colony and write the names of each
3. Answer the questions about type of ants
Leaf Cutter Ant
Fungus Garden
Brood Chamber
Investigate Ant House & Garden
Name:
Cut out the pictures and match them with the descriptions.
Type of Ant
Picture of Ant
Type of Ant
Picture of Ant
This female ant starts off life with wings. Once she lays eggs, her wings fall off. Her only job is to lay eggs.
This female ant has no wings. Her job is to protect the colony. She may also help find food or a new place to build a nest.
This male ant has wings. He only has one job, which is to mate with the queen.
This female ant has no wings. Her job is to feed and take care of the eggs, larvae, and ants. She also finds food and builds the colony.
Color the ant colony and write the name of each chamber.
Drone
Worker
Queen

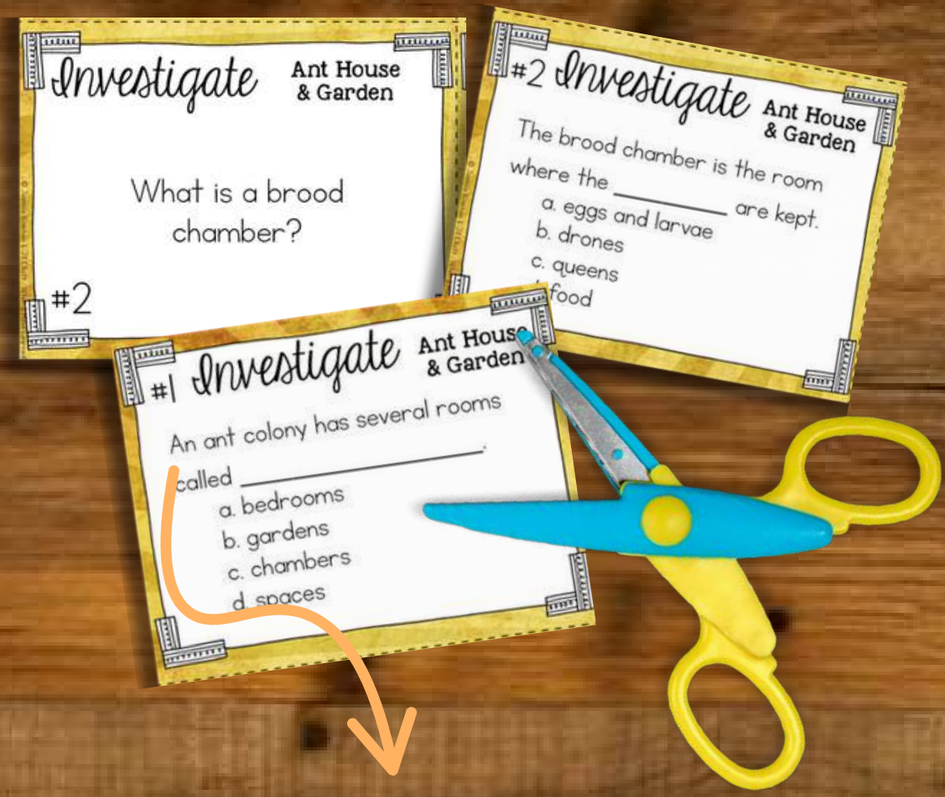
DIFFERENTIATED QUESTIONS



SHORT ANSWER



FILL-IN-THE BLANK



TASK CARDS: SHORT ANSWER & MULTIPLE CHOICE

Investigate
Ant House & Garden

Type of Ants

Ants are social insects. They live in large groups called colonies. There are between 100 and one million ants in a colony.

In the colony, there are four types of ants: workers, drones, soldiers, and the queen.

- Worker ants are females. They have no wings. Their job is to care for the eggs, larvae, and queen. They also build the ant colony and find food to bring back for all the ants to share.
- The drones are the only male ants in the colony. They have wings. Their job is to mate with the queen or queens to make eggs.
- The soldiers are female ants. They have no wings. Their job is to defend the colony, find or hunt for food, and find new nesting places.
- The queen ant is a female ant. Her only job is to lay eggs. An ant colony may have one or many queens. Queens have wings until they lay eggs. Then their wings fall off.

Ant Homes

Ants often build their ... or dead trees. The colony has several rooms call... s a specific purpose.

...od is kept.

...lays an egg, a worker takes the egg to ... hatch, workers feed and care for the ...

...ony. Some ants move ant waste and ...

...ts don't eat leaves. They eat ...heir colony. Then they put the ...er. Fungus will grow on the leaf. ...e other ants in the colony.

Investigate
Ant House & Garden

Materials
- Student sheets
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers

Instructions
1. Read the text about types of ants and ant homes.
2. Cut out the pictures of each ant and match them with the descriptions.
3. Look at the pictures of the ant colony below. On your worksheet color the ant colony and write the names of each chamber.
4. Answer the questions about type of ants and ant homes.



Investigate
Ant House & Garden

Name: _____

1. Describe what an ant colony looks like.

It is in a mound or dead tree. It has many tunnels and several rooms called chambers.

2. What is a brood chamber?

The room where the eggs and larvae are kept.

3. What do leaf cutter ants do with the pieces ...

They put it in a chamber called the fungu... ...row on it.

4. What do leaf cutter ants eat? Where do they get this food?

They eat fungus. They get this food from the fungus growing ... the fungus garden chamber.

#2 What is a brood chamber?

Investigate
Ant House & Garden

#2

The brood chamber is the room where the _____ are kept.

a. eggs and larvae
b. drones
c. queens
d. food

Investigate
Ant House & Garden

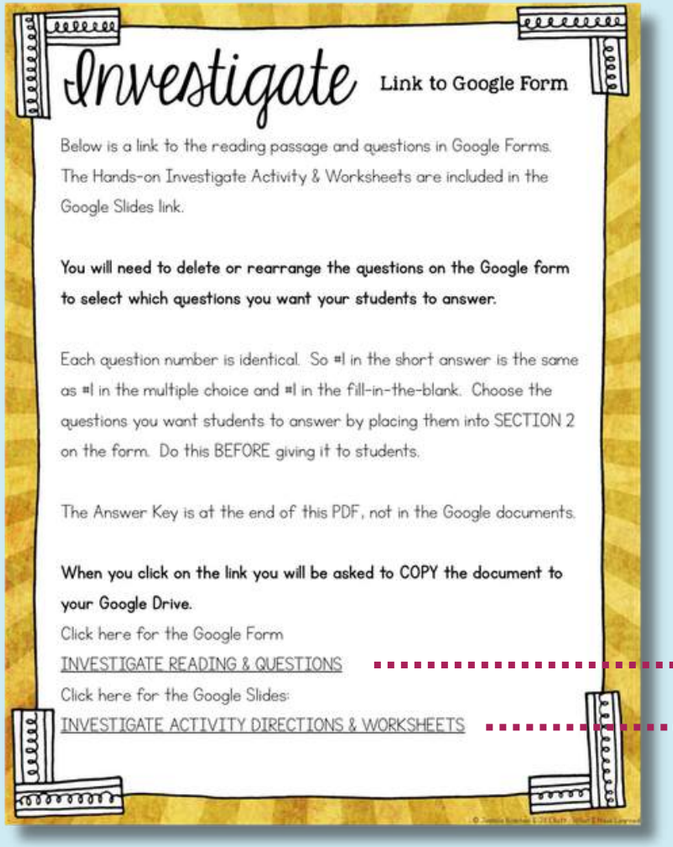
#1

An ant colony has several rooms called _____.

a. bedrooms
b. gardens
c. chambers
d. spaces



DIGITAL VERSIONS


Investigate Link to Google Form

Below is a link to the reading passage and questions in Google Forms. The Hands-on Investigate Activity & Worksheets are included in the Google Slides link.

You will need to delete or rearrange the questions on the Google form to select which questions you want your students to answer.

Each question number is identical. So #1 in the short answer is the same as #1 in the multiple choice and #1 in the fill-in-the-blank. Choose the questions you want students to answer by placing them into SECTION 2 on the form. Do this BEFORE giving it to students.

The Answer Key is at the end of this PDF, not in the Google documents.

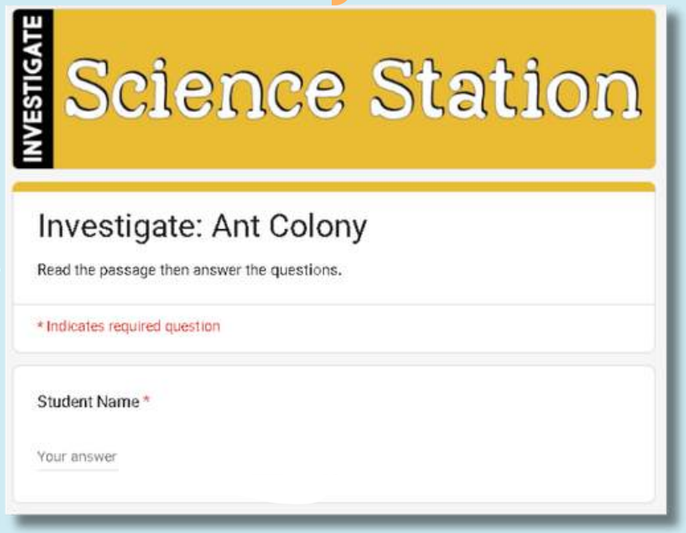
When you click on the link you will be asked to COPY the document to your Google Drive.

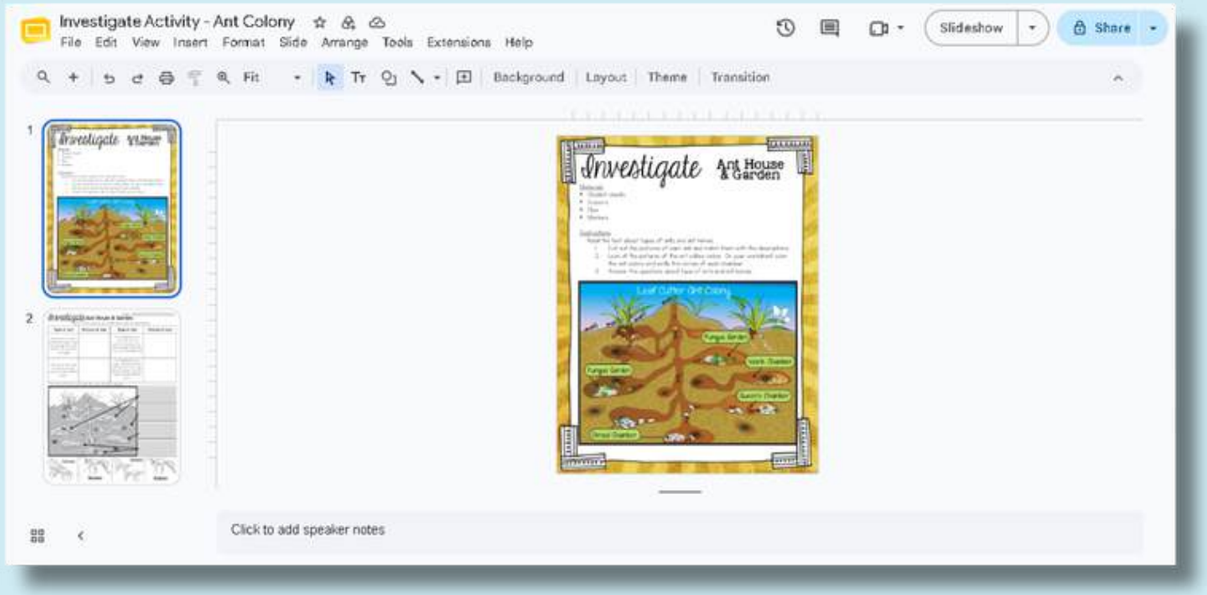
Click here for the Google Form

INVESTIGATE READING & QUESTIONS

Click here for the Google Slides:

INVESTIGATE ACTIVITY DIRECTIONS & WORKSHEETS





DIGITAL VERSIONS

- ✔ Google Sheet with Activity & Directions
- ✔ Google Form with Reading & Questions

Answer keys provided

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE



Connects Science and Literacy

Students connect reading, vocabulary, diagram analysis, observation, and evidence-based explanations through one meaningful science activity.



Strong NGSS Alignment

The investigation directly supports NGSS 3-LS2.D by showing how organized group behavior improves animal survival.



Easy Prep with Simple Materials

Requires only simple classroom materials while offering multiple response formats, printable activities, and digital options to support diverse learners.

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

This was a very engaging resourcThis Ant Colonies science activity is a thoughtfully designed and engaging resource that brings hands-on learning into the classroom in a meaningful way...

Lisa R.

Check out securely
Download instantly

Leave a Review
to earn Reward Points
to get more resources!

My students loved this resource as a way to finish up our unit on animal/group survival. The worksheets were engaging, simple ant easy to follow. most students did well!

Laura M.



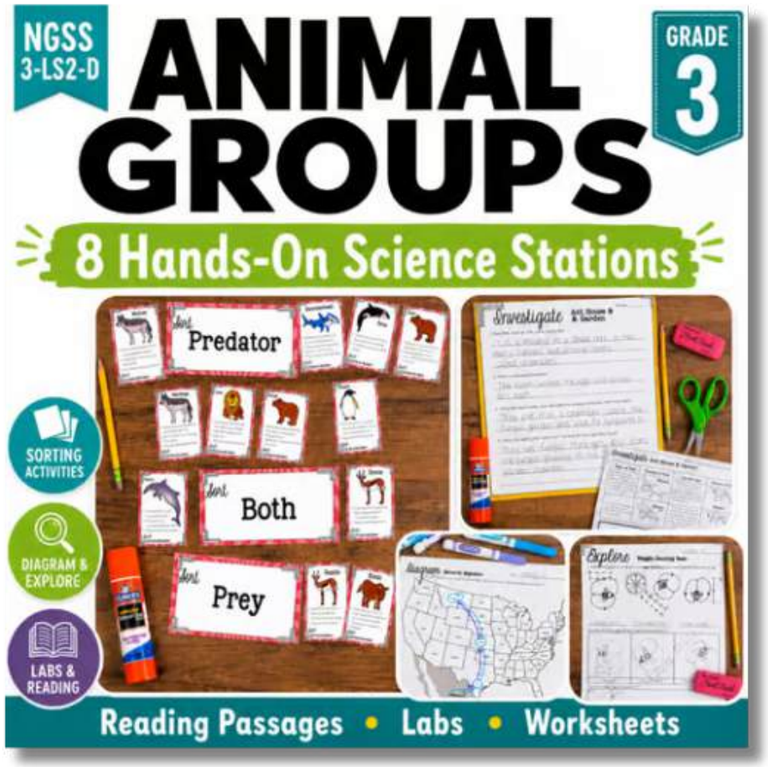


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Save with a topic bundle or the full-year bundle.

TOPIC BUNDLE

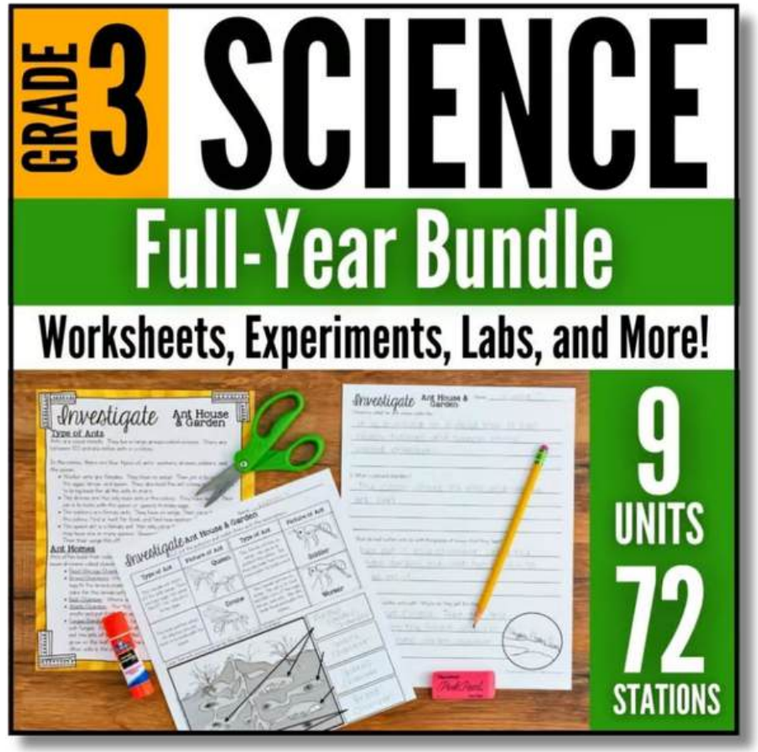
GOOD VALUE



SEE THE BUNDLE

FULL-YEAR BUNDLE

BEST VALUE



SEE THE BUNDLE

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.





What I have LEARNED