GRADES
2–3



READ, RESEARCH, AND WRITE

FIRE ANTS

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 fire ants.

2 NOTICE DETAILS

Students look for facts about the fire ants'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 fire ants

1 WATCH AND RESEARCH

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

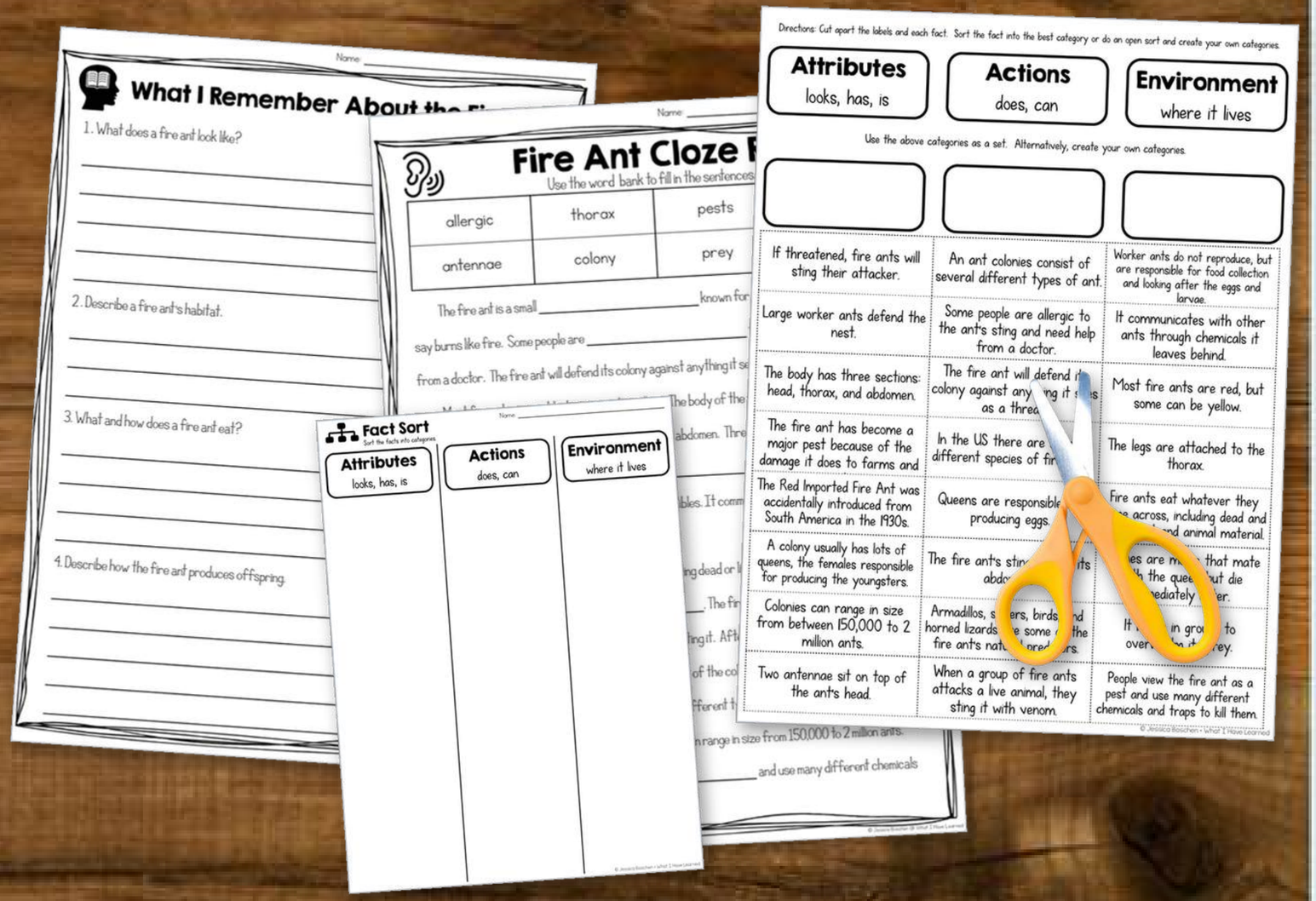
2 TAKE NOTES

Students record facts about the fire ants'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 fire ants

1 REMEMBER

Students recall important facts after reading about fire ants.

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 fire ants report

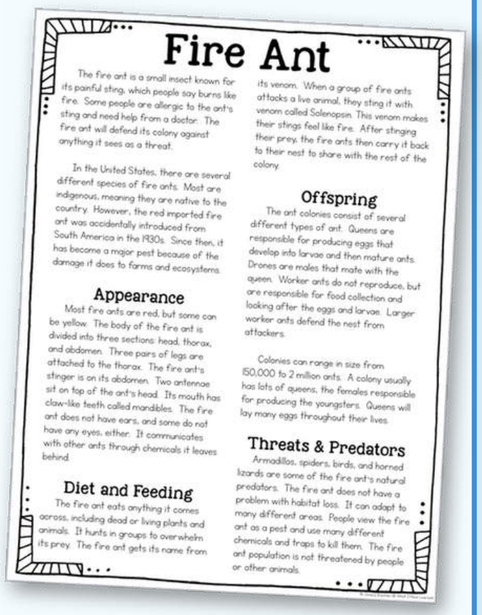
1 PLAN
Students use note-taking pages to collect and organize research.

2 SUMMARIZE
Students turn facts into a focused summary about fire ants.

3 WRITE
Students use report pages to explain what they learned.

FROM READING TO ANIMAL RESEARCH WRITING

READ


Fire Ant

The fire ant is a small insect known for its painful sting, which people say burns like fire. Some people are allergic to the ant's sting and need help from a doctor. The fire ant will defend its colony against anything it sees as a threat.

In the United States, there are several different species of fire ants. Most are indigenous, meaning they are native to the country. However, the red imported fire ant was accidentally introduced from South America in the 1930s. Since then, it has become a major pest because of the damage it does to farms and ecosystems.

Appearance

Most fire ants are red, but some can be yellow. The body of the fire ant is divided into three sections: head, thorax, and abdomen. Three pairs of legs are attached to the thorax. The fire ant's stinger is on its abdomen. Two antennae sit on top of the ant's head. Its mouth has claw-like teeth called mandibles. The fire ant does not have ears, and some do not have any eyes, either. It communicates with other ants through chemicals it leaves behind.

Diet and Feeding

The fire ant eats anything it comes across, including dead or living plants and animals. It hunts in groups to overwhelm its prey. The fire ant gets its name from its venom. When a group of fire ants attacks a live animal, they sting it with venom called Solenopsin. This venom makes their stings feel like fire. After stinging their prey, the fire ants then carry it back to their nest to share with the rest of the colony.

Offspring

The ant colonies consist of several different types of ant. Queens are responsible for producing eggs that develop into larvae and then mature ants. Drones are males that mate with the queen. Worker ants do not reproduce, but are responsible for food collection and looking after the eggs and larvae. Larger worker ants defend the nest from attackers.

Colonies can range in size from 150,000 to 2 million ants. A colony usually has lots of queens, the females responsible for producing the youngsters. Queens will lay many eggs throughout their lives.

Threats & Predators

Armadillos, spiders, birds, and horned lizards are some of the fire ant's natural predators. The fire ant does not have a problem with habitat loss. It can adapt to many different areas. People view the fire ant as a pest and use many different chemicals and traps to kill them. The fire ant population is not threatened by people or other animals.

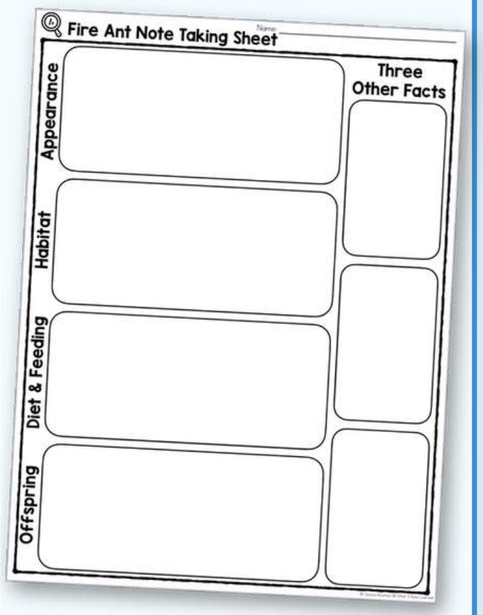
Read an informational article about fire ants in a format that fits your students.

LEARN



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

RESEARCH


Fire Ant Note Taking Sheet

Name:

Appearance

Habitat

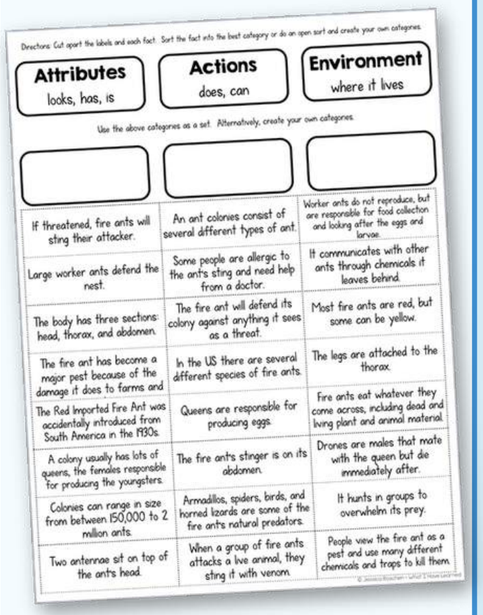
Diet & Feeding

Offspring

Three Other Facts

Gather facts about the fire ants'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

Actions
does, can

Environment
where it lives

Use the above categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.

If threatened, fire ants will sting their attacker.	An ant colonies consist of several different types of ant.	Worker ants do not reproduce, but are responsible for food collection and looking after the eggs and larvae.
Large worker ants defend the nest.	Some people are allergic to the ant's sting and need help from a doctor.	It communicates with other ants through chemicals it leaves behind.
The body has three sections: head, thorax, and abdomen.	The fire ant will defend its colony against anything it sees as a threat.	Most fire ants are red, but some can be yellow.
The fire ant has become a major pest because of the damage it does to farms and	In the US there are several different species of fire ants.	The legs are attached to the thorax.
The Red Imported Fire Ant was accidentally introduced from South America in the 1930s.	Queens are responsible for producing eggs.	Fire ants eat whatever they come across, including dead and living plant and animal material.
A colony usually has lots of queens, the females responsible for producing the youngsters.	The fire ants stinger is on its abdomen.	Drones are males that mate with the queen but die immediately after.
Colonies can range in size from between 150,000 to 2 million ants.	Armadillos, spiders, birds, and horned lizards are some of the fire ants natural predators.	It hunts in groups to overwhelm its prey.
Two antennae sit on top of the ants head.	When a group of fire ants attacks a live animal, they sting it with venom.	People view the fire ant as a pest and use many different chemicals and traps to kill them.

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

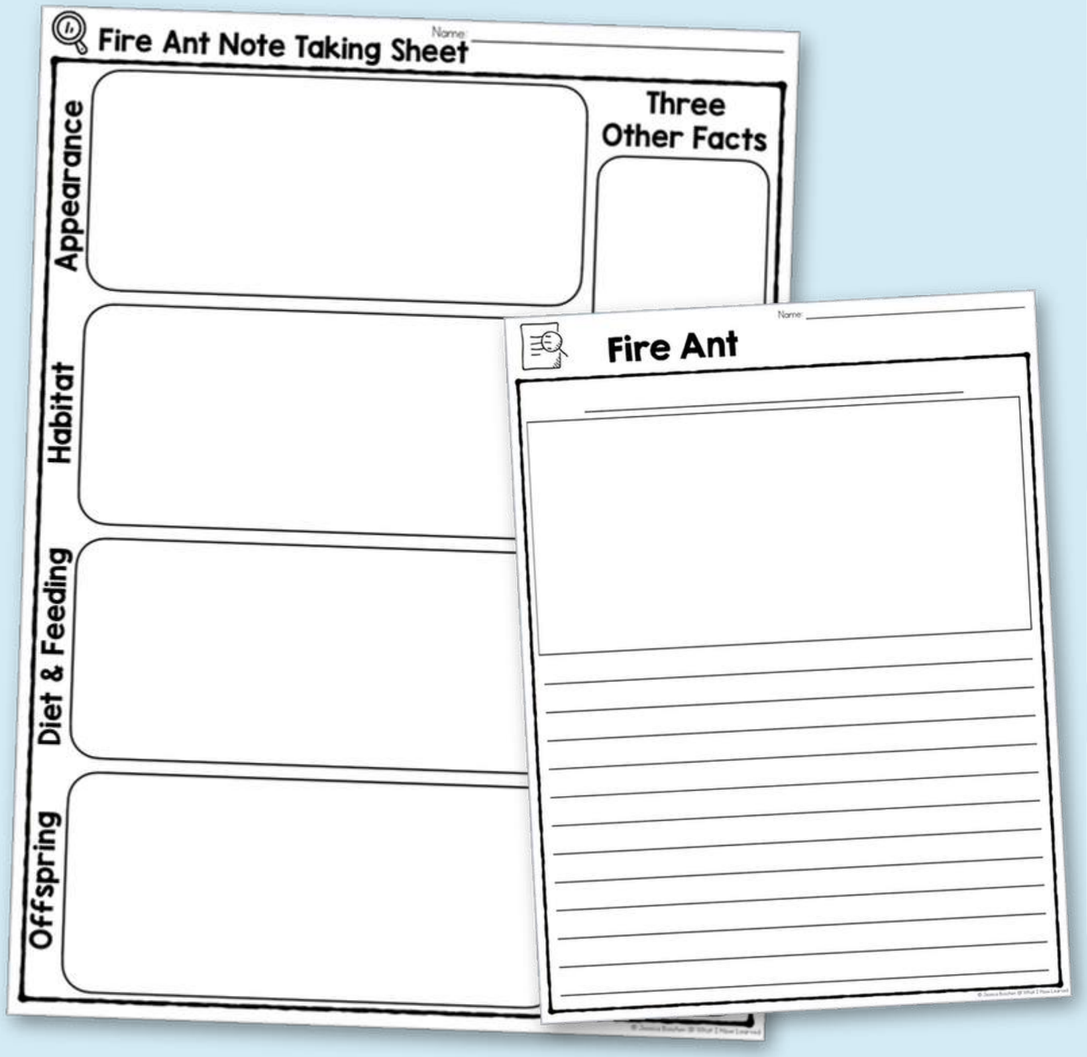
WRITE


Fire Ant

Name:

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

WAYS TO USE THIS RESOURCE



1

ANIMAL STUDY

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

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

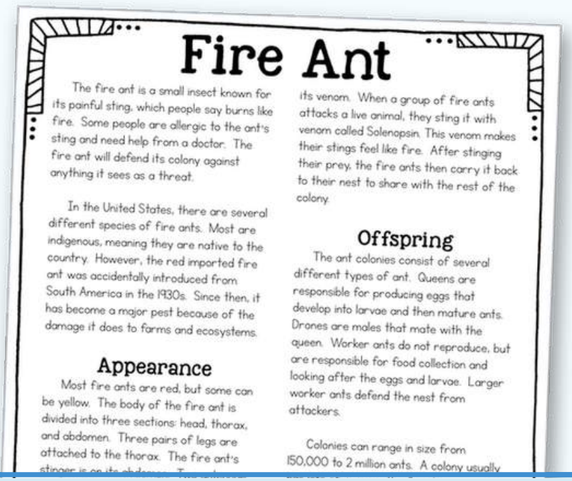
INFORMATIONAL WRITING

Move from organized notes to a clear report about fire ants.

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE

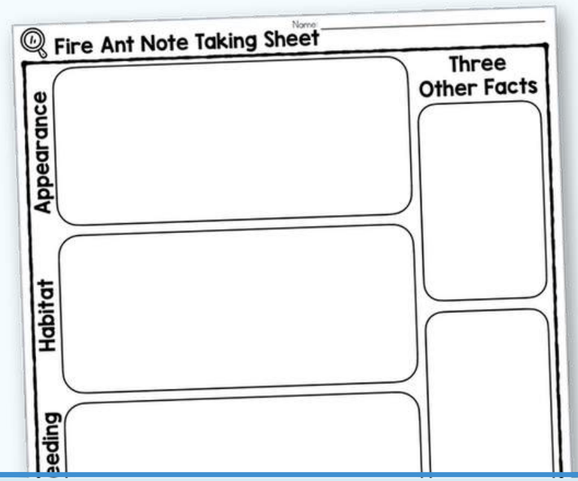
PERFECT FOR SCIENCE AND ELA

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



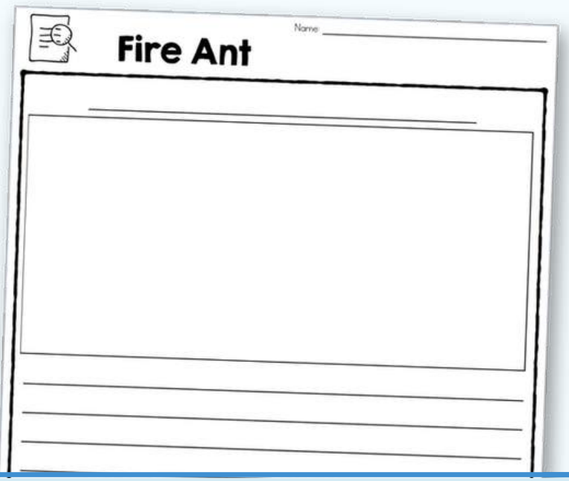
SAVES TIME WITH CONSISTENT LAYOUTS

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



SUPPORTS ANIMAL RESEARCH

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



TEACHERS LOVE IT!

★★★★★

My students really enjoyed this reading as a part of the "fire portion" of our "Elements" summer theme. Super engaging!

Tiny Teacher Thoughts

★★★★★

Wonderful resource, thanks

I Can in Elementary

★★★★★

Overall, exactly what we were looking for to assist our students with their learning on fire ants and our module work!

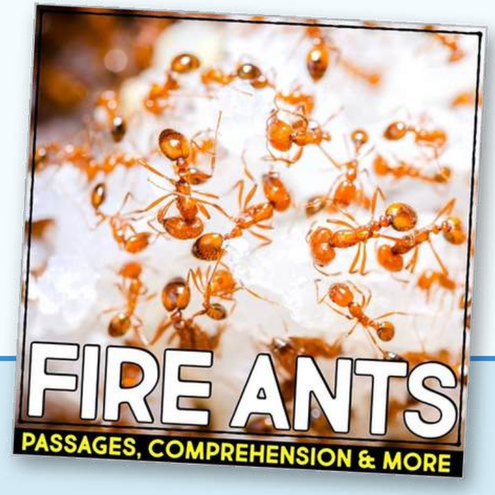
Stephanie G.





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