

Grade 3 Exemplars

Prompt: Ants are busy insects. Describe the different jobs that ants in the colony do. Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Exemplar A:

Ants have so many jobs in the colony. First, worker ants dig nests with their jaws, use saliva to make the walls hard, and put the extra dirt outside. Next, scout ants make a scent trail when they find food so others can find the food. This way others can help carry it back to the nest. Finally, some large-headed ants are soldiers who work to protect the nest by fighting predators who try to enter. Invaders could eat the ants without this help. These are the important jobs that ants do.

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Exemplar B:

Ants work hard at their many different jobs. A queen lays eggs, a scout helps get food and soldiers protect the nest. First, the queen ant is the head of the colony. Her job is to lay eggs. She is the only one who can reproduce, which means to have more ants. A scout ant hunts for food. When they find food, they leave scent trails for other ants to follow. Then, they all carry the food to their nest to store in tunnels and chambers inside the anthill. The scouts share this food with all the ants. Finally, soldier ants defend the colony. They are big and have an enormous head that they use to block the entrance to the nest. Soldier ants protect the nest. They keep the nest safe from invaders. Ants have so many different jobs. They need for everyone in the colony to do their jobs if the colony is to survive.

Prompt: Ants are busy insects. Describe the different jobs that ants in the colony do. Use details from the passage to support your answer.

Exemplar C:

Ants are small insects that live together in colonies. Ants do many busy jobs that are important because the colony might die without them.

Worker ants build the nests so that all the ants in the colonies have a place to live. These ants dig the nest with their jaws and then they create piles of dirt that they carry outside. They use saliva to keep the walls solid. They also create tunnels and chambers all through the nest. Everyone needs a place to live.

Scout ants find the food that the ants in the colony need to live. When they find this food, they leave “a scent trail along the way.” This means that other ants can follow the scent and be led to the food that they found. Then other ants can help to carry this food back to the nest so all ants have the food they need to live.

Finally, soldier ants have enormous heads, much larger than other ants. They use their heads to protect the nest by blocking the entrance. That is not all they do to guard the nest. If other insects try to enter, they fight them. Without the soldier ants, invaders could enter the nest and kill the ants.

Scouts, soldiers, workers, and queens all do their important part on the team to make sure the ant colony survives. Ants need everyone to do their job so they can all survive.