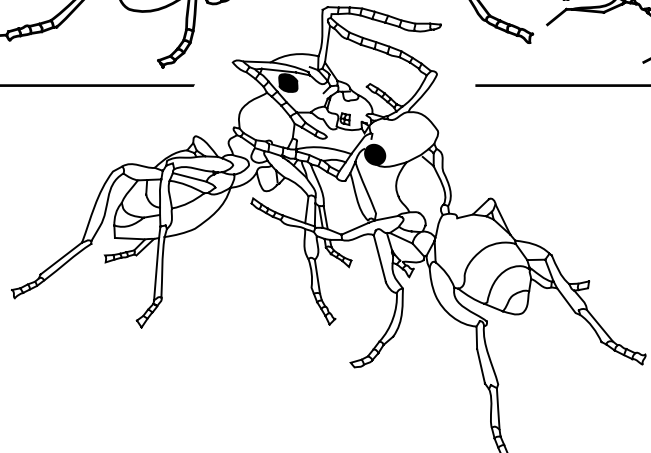
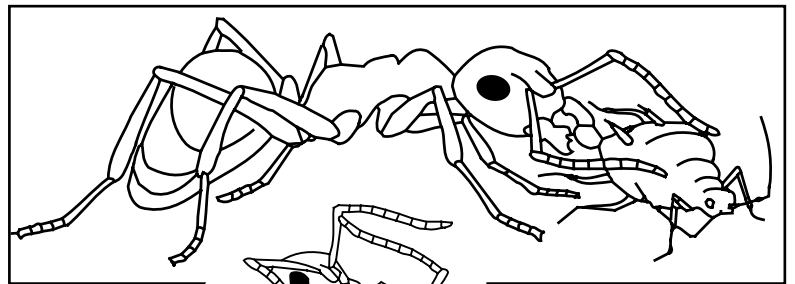
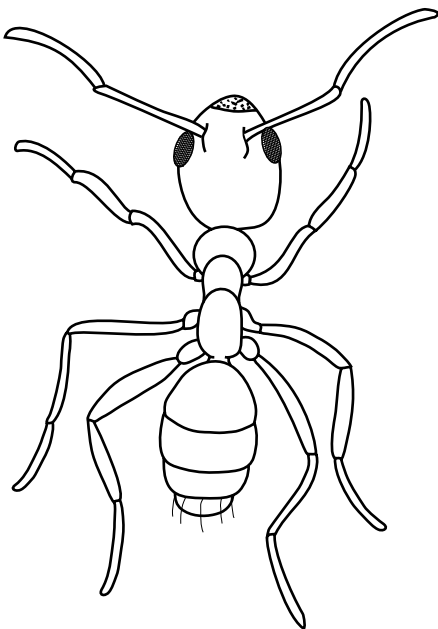




# ANT WORLD



# ANT WORLD

**ANT WORLD** is a fascinating resource for your Primary Classroom.

If the instructions in the care manual are followed your class will benefit from many hours of close wildlife observation.

These notes have been produced to give you a bank of practical classroom tested activities, with photocopiable pages to enable you to get the best out of your **ANT WORLD** in your classroom.

They are designed primarily to help in planning and implementing the National Curriculum Science Life Processes and Living Things Key Stages 1 and 2. There are also opportunities to cover Experimental and Investigative Science, in particular the obtaining evidence section.

There are links with the requirements of the Literacy Hour for non-fiction work, for example: reading and following directions/instructions, writing captions, assembling information, writing descriptions, lists and observations.

The children's observations can give real opportunities for Data Handling.

## **CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

### **ANTS ACTIVITY ONE (KS1/2)**

This is best done just after the kit has been introduced to the children. A group of children could be given the job of assembling **ANT WORLD** getting it ready for the addition of the sand and the ants. There is an assembly diagram in the kit. The children could be asked to produce a list of assembly instructions for a younger class to follow. See ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET ONE

### **ANTS ACTIVITY TWO (KS1/2)**

Photocopy ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET TWO for a group of children observing **ANT WORLD**. This is best done just after feeding. The children could record their observations individually or as a group, discussing their answers.

### **ANTS ACTIVITY THREE (KS2)**

Ants react differently to different foods; they have very distinctive behaviour when feeding making this an ideal close observation activity. It is important not to give too much food, only try out very tiny amounts (pinhead size). Try a new food each week. Use ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET THREE.

### **ANTS ACTIVITY FOUR (KS1)**

Photocopy ANTS ACTIVITY FOUR. Get the children to cut out labels from the bottom of the page and stick them near appropriate part of the ant's body or they can match the label to body part with a line.

### **ANTS ACTIVITY FIVE (KS2)**

This activity aims to get the children to research on their own. You may like to use ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET FIVE. There is a book list included in this pack, but there will be other sources of information such as the internet and encyclopedias. The children should be encouraged to make their own bibliography and use their own observations.

## **CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES**

### **ANTS ACTIVITY SIX (KS1)**

ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET SIX is a simple missing word activity. The words at the bottom of the page could be removed to make it more of a challenge.

### **ANTS ACTIVITY SEVEN (KS1/2)**

Use ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET SEVEN to enable the class to make daily observations of the ants in **ANT WORLD** for a month. If you are keeping the ants for a lengthy period observations could be made for a few months to see if any patterns emerge in feeding, tunnelling and interactions.

### **ANTS ACTIVITY EIGHT (KS1)**

Make up a book of the picture of the front of the **ANT WORLD** included in this pack and select a child each day to record pictorially the course of the tunnels. The children could write down at the bottom of the page their observations of the ants' behaviour while they are watching them. After a week of observations of the tunnelling activity the days could be compared to see if there are any patterns to their behaviour. Also included is a reduced size of **ANT WORLD** front for a small book of observations on a science/nature table.

### **ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PACK:**

A page of ants to use when creating own work sheets etc.

A page of amazing facts about ants.

A book list.

Evaluation sheet – your comments would be welcome!

# ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET ONE

Take the **ANT WORLD** apart and put on the stickers.

See if you can write a set of instructions for putting it back together again. Draw a diagram with labels.

Name .....

## ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET TWO

Pick out one ant in **ANT WORLD**. Use a timer and observe your ant for 5 minutes.

Watch how it moves.

What happens when it meets another ant?

.....

.....

.....

How does it do when it finds some food?

.....

.....

.....

Describe any tunnelling your ant does.

.....

.....

.....

Record any other you have observed about the ant's behaviour.

.....

.....

.....

.....

Name .....

# ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET THREE

## FOOD

Your ants should be fed regularly - about once a week. Try out different food each week. Use only very small amounts. Try apple, banana, jam or any other juicy fruit. (Do not use the skin unless the fruit has been washed.)

## FEEDING RECORD

Date : .....

Type of food .....

How long before the food is noticed?

.....  
.....

Describe what happens when the first ant finds the food.

.....  
.....

Is the food carried away? Describe what happens.

.....  
.....  
.....

Does the ant go and 'tell' the others?

.....  
.....

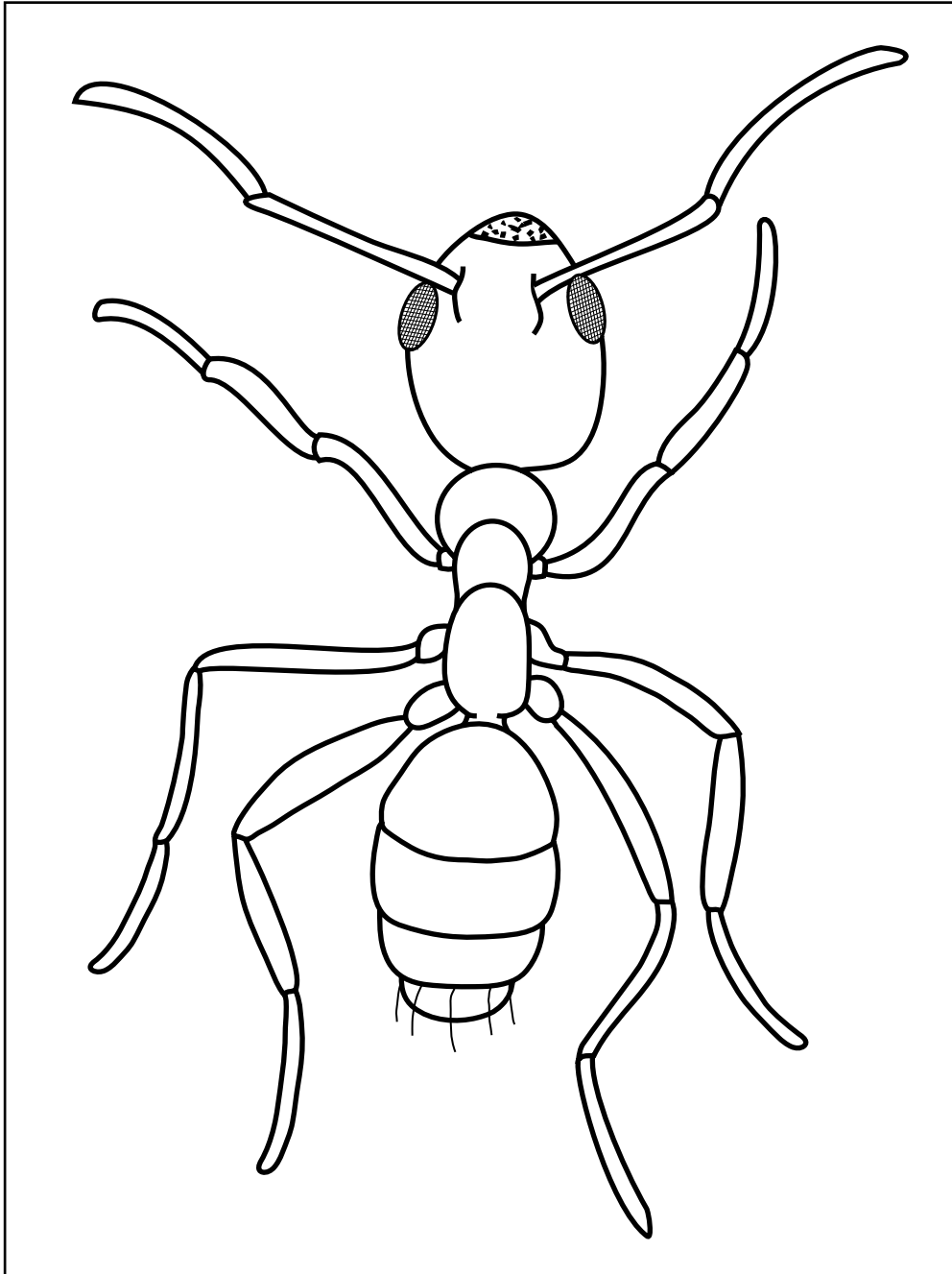
Can you see the ants sharing the food or feeding each other?  
Observe with a magnifying glass and write down what you see.

.....  
.....  
.....

Name.....

# ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET FOUR

An ant is an insect. Insects have 6 legs and 3 body parts.



Antennae

Thorax

Abdomen

Head

Legs

## ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET FIVE

Use all the research facilities available to find out more about ants. (Libraries, Internet, school books etc.) You could find out general facts about ants that would be of interest to you and your class or research one aspect of their life such as habitat, and species.

Use the following ideas to get you started. This is only a guide, list your own questions. Don't forget to note where you found the information.

What and how do ants eat?

Find out about the ant's life cycle.

How do the ants communicate with each other?

Are all the ants in a colony the same?

Name .....

# ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET SIX

Name.....

See if you can fill in the missing words in this writing about ants. Use the words at the bottom of the page.

Ants have ..... body parts and ..... legs.

They live with other ants in a ..... A group of ants is called a .....

Ants make ..... in their nests.

Ants need ..... and ..... to live.

They like to eat ..... food.

colony

food

three

sweet

tunnels

six

water

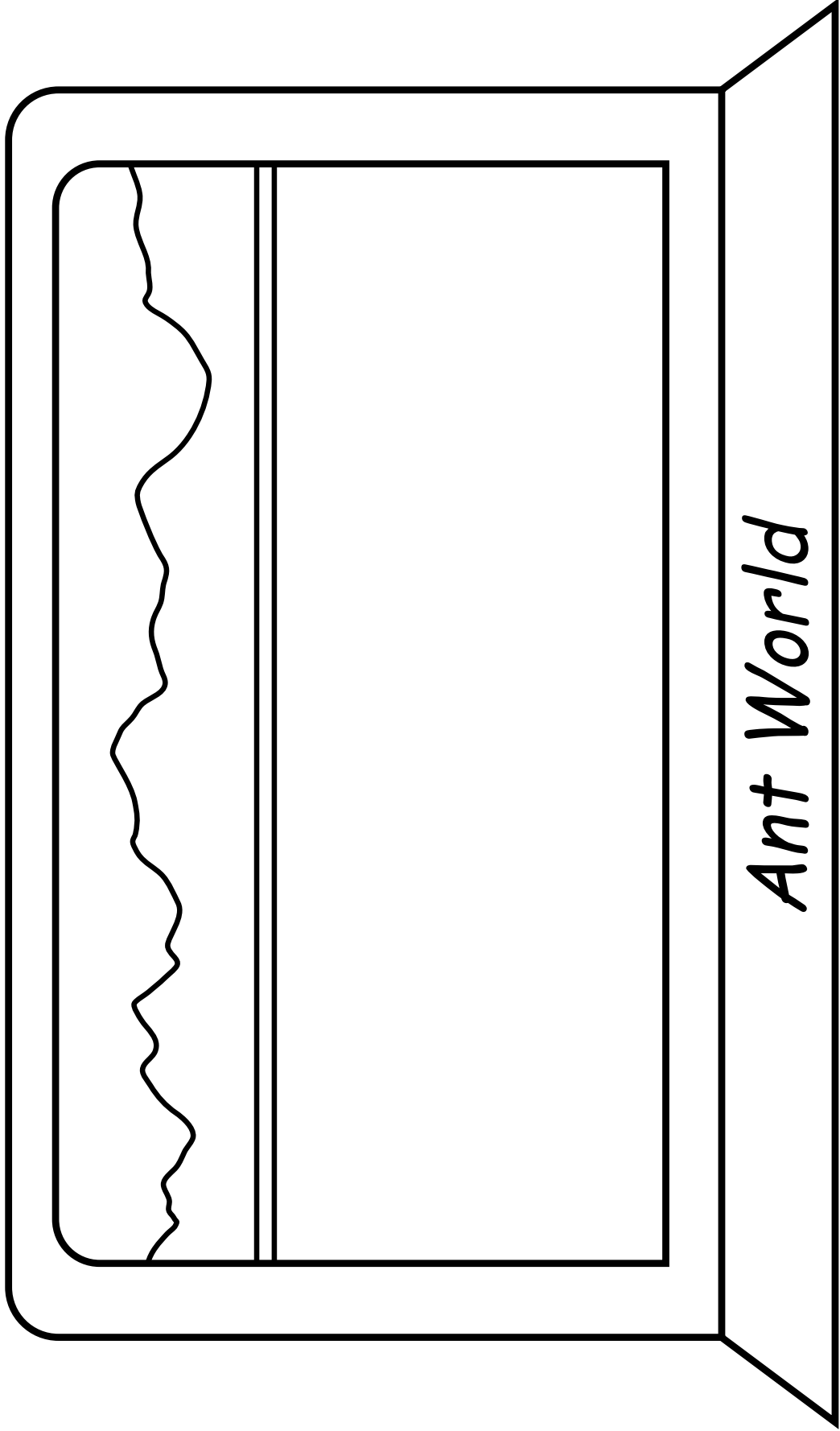
nest

# ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET SEVEN

MONTH.....

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

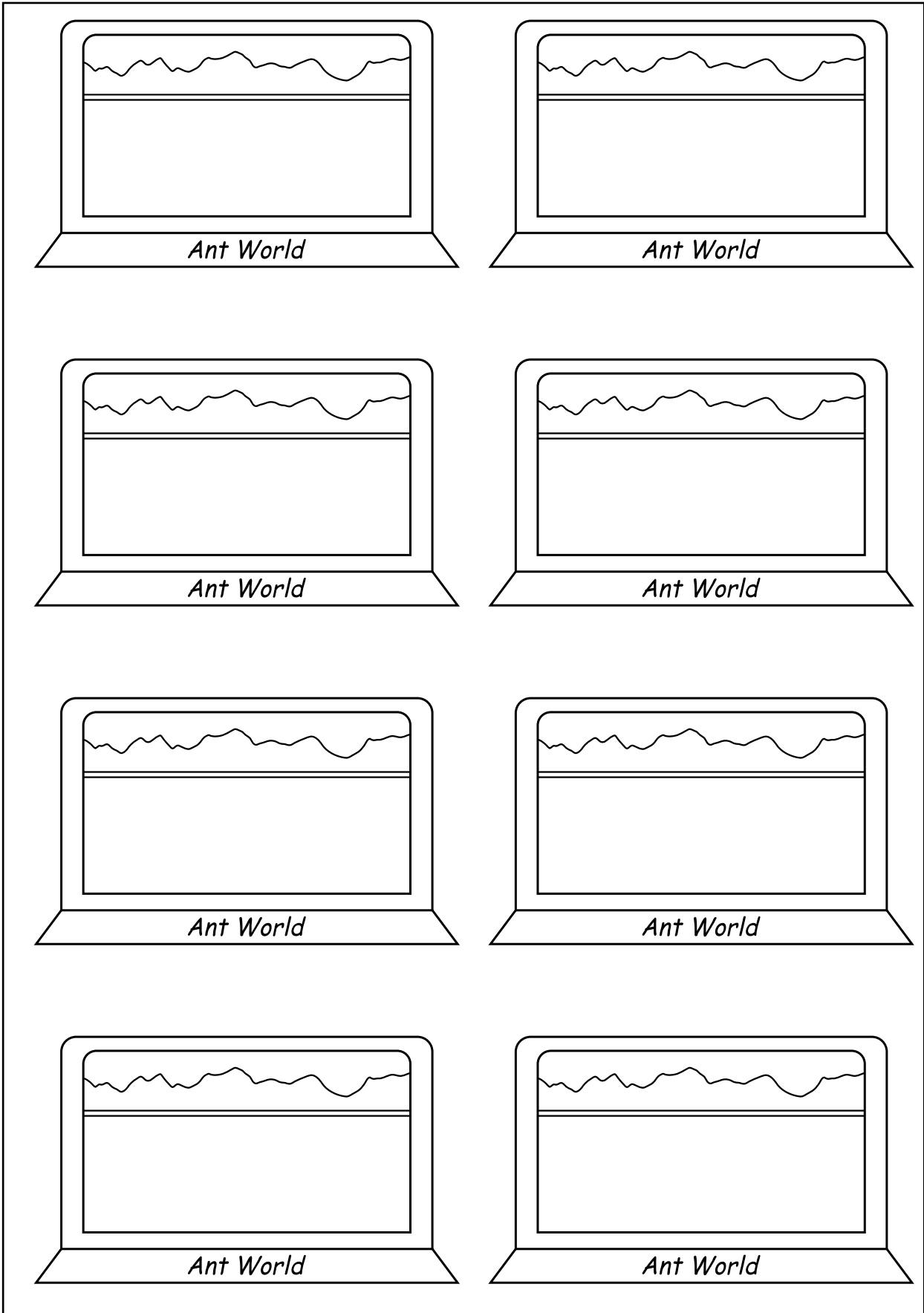
**ANTS ACTIVITY SHEET EIGHT**



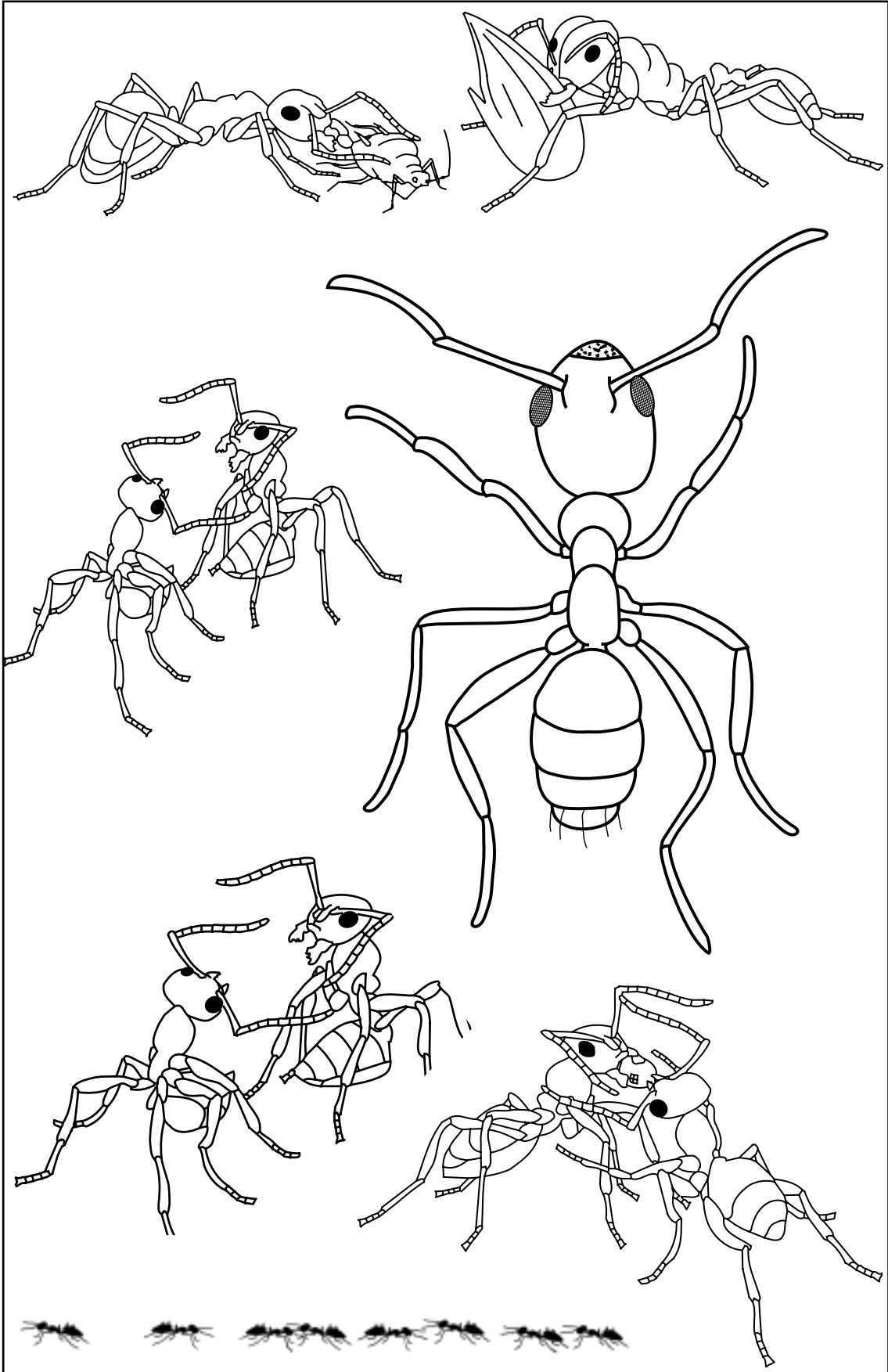
# AMAZING FACTS ABOUT ANTS

- The total weight of ants in the world is greater than the total weight of humans.
- Ants can lift 20 times their own body weight. What is your body weight times 20? Do you think you could lift that?
- An ant brain has about 250,000 cells. A human brain has about 10,000,000,000 (10,000 million) cells. However, a colony of 40,000 ants would collectively have the same brain size as a human.
- There are over 10,000 known species (or families) of ants. They can adapt very quickly to new environments and it is thought if there were a major environmental catastrophe ants would be one of the types of animals that would be most likely to survive.
- *Lasius niger* (the common Black Ant) and *Lasius flavus* (the common Yellow Meadow Ant) queens have been known to live as long as 25 years. Worker ants normally live for about one year.
- The nest of the common garden black ant (*Lasius niger*) may contain a population of 5 -10,000 ants.
- The biggest reported ant colony contained 306,000,000 ants and it covered an area of 2.7 km.
- Ants cannot chew and swallow food so they squeeze juice from the food, swallow that and throw away the dry left-overs. Some worker ants have the job of taking rubbish from the nest and putting it outside in a special rubbish dump.
- Each colony has its own smell so that outsiders can be recognised and expelled or killed immediately.
- At night the worker ants move the eggs and larvae deep into the nest to protect them from the cold. During the daytime, the worker ants move the eggs and larvae of the colony to the top of the nest so that they can be warmer.

# ANT WORLD



# ANT WORLD



# ANTS BOOK LIST

**Ants of the British Isles** ~ Gary Skinner. Published 1987

ISBN 0852638965

**Journey to the Ants: A Story of Scientific Exploration** ~ Bert

Holldobler. Published 1995. Harvard University Press. ISBN  
0674485254

## **Children's Books:**

**Planet Ant** ~ Liz Doyle. Published 1996. Planet Dexter. ISBN

0201489856

**Inside an Ant Colony** ~ Allan Folwer. Published 1998. Children's  
Book Press.

ISBN 051626365X

**The Magic School Bus Gets Ants in It's Pants:**

**A book About Ants** ~ Joanna Cole. Scholastic Books.

ISBN 059040024X

**Ants** ~ Gary Skinner. Published 1996. Richmond Publishing.

ISBN 0855463058

**Ants** ~ Anne Smith. Published 1990. Wayland.

ISBN 1852167375

**Ants** ~ Barrie Watts. Published 1994. Franklin Watts.

ISBN 074961885X

**Ant (Bug Book)** ~ Marco/ Hantley/Bailey. Heinemann.

ISBN 431016720

## ANTS CLASSROOM FEEDBACK SHEET

We would appreciate your comments about your teacher pack notes and any other ideas you might have about using **ANT WORLD** in the classroom.

You can write to us, e.mail or fax us back on this form.



INTERPLAY UK LTD  
Crown Lane  
Marlow  
Buckinghamshire  
SL7 3HL

Tel: 01628 488944

Fax: 01628 476700

e.mail: [sales@interplayuk.co.uk](mailto:sales@interplayuk.co.uk)

