

Ants!

Volume 1

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Introduction

Overview

- Make a big "Ant Tunnel Map" of your ant habitat. Students observe ants, record data on smaller maps, count, add, measure, draw, label, and write about ants. Close by stapling work into "My Ant Book" and sending it home.

Time

- 30-60 minutes teacher prep; 2 to 3 hours class time over 14 days; brief daily observation.

Purpose

- Inspire increased interest in science and allow students multiple opportunities to practice skills measured by science and mathematics benchmarks.

National Science Standards and Math Focal Points for Grade 1

- Science Standards: Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry (observation, prediction, data collection, and quantification); characteristics and behaviors of organisms
- Math Focal Points: ...strengthen sense of number by solving problems involving measurements and data; measuring by...counting units.

Teacher Prep

Copy pages H2 and H3 for each student; hang "Ant Tunnel Map" near your live ants in a place where it will be convenient to draw tunnels. Read this 2-page guide. Schedule activities.

Challenge—Get Started

Time: 15-20 minutes

Materials: "My Ant Book" cover for each student

Optional: Make the challenge more fun and practice predicting with the "Predict-Count-Compare" handout, online at www.earthsbirthday.org/hos/ants/.

- Ant Data: This practice lesson prepares students to collect data from live ants. On the back cover of "My Ant Book," count the number of ants in the house, "on top" and "in the tunnels." Add the numbers together to find the total number of ants in the ant house.

- Challenge: Then count all the ants on both the front and back covers. How many ants are in the house? How many ants are outside the house? How many ants are there altogether?

- **Key:** There are 14 ants in the tunnels and 6 on top. There are 20 ants in the house; 91 outside the house, and 111 altogether (not counting the big one).

Additional Activity: Read "10 Big Ant Facts" (on the back of the "Ant!" poster). Have students write facts on your board or flip tablet.

Ant Tunnels Map—Observe and Count

Time: 5-10 minutes per day, several days (a fun activity for your morning circle)

Materials: Plastic grid, "Ant Tunnels Map," paper, pencils, and crayons or markers

- When ants have started tunneling, **tape the plastic grid onto the front of the habitat.** This grid matches the grid on the "Ant Tunnel Map" and on handout 1 (Ant Data).

Ant Data



Some of the ants are on top and some are in the tunnels.

How many ants are on top? _____

How many ants are in the tunnels? _____

+ _____

How many ants are in the house? _____

Challenge

How many ants are on the front and back covers of your book? _____