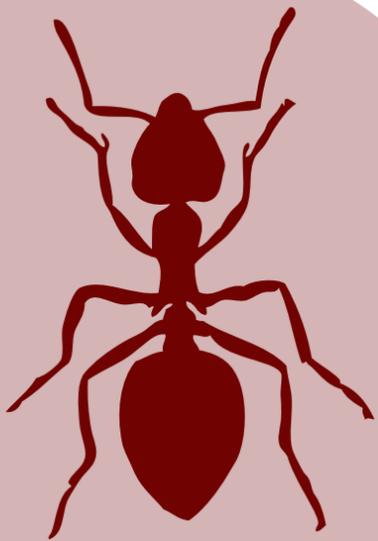




GETTING ANTSY



STEP 1: FIND ANTS

You can find ants in many different places. In the backyard, along the sidewalk. When the rain comes, you can sometimes find them in or close to the house. they move along a long line or busy ant-walking-trail. See if you can spot some ants anywhere.

STEP 2: OBSERVE

What do these ants look like? Can you draw one? You can use a looking glass to see them up close. Look if you can find your ant and its name here: <https://ausants.net/photography>

What do you think the ants are doing? Where are they going? Are they carrying anything? What can you see them carry or drag? Ants can carry 5 times their own body weight. Are they working together?



STEP 3: PLAY ANTS GAME

Play this game with 3 players or in 3 teams. Put a bunch of objects in the middle of a space or room. It can be anything: twigs, toys, balls or anything else not too fragile. You need at least 10 objects. Give each group a note instructing them to place all objects near a feature in the space. For example one group has to place them near the window, the other near the door and the third near a plant. Keep playing until everyone's mission is complete.



STEP 4: WRITE A STORY OR POEM

How did observing the ants or the game make you feel? Are you part of a big group that does the same thing or works together to get something done?

Write a story or poem about what you saw, about being an ant, or working together with others to get something done.



Observing animals close to your home creates a sense of wonder of the (extra)ordinary everyday things. Things that we normally step over. It also creates a sense of wonder, empathy and ants teach us about the collective power of cooperation.

