

The Environmental Learning Center

ANT PICNIC

All around us insects are hard at work, especially the ant. Did you know Florida has many different species of ant? In this activity, you can attract ants with tasty treats and try to identify them using the ant ID card.

Materials Needed:

- Notecard or piece of paper
- Marker for labeling
- Ant ID card (provided)
- Snacks from your kitchen



Instructions:

1. Take a minute to step outside and see if you can locate an ant on a mission. She could be in the grass, climbing up a wall or even walking down the sidewalk. This ant that you observe is a female forager ant, probably out looking for food to bring back to her whole colony.
2. Try and identify this ant using the ANT ID card. This can be difficult considering how small they are and how quickly they move.
3. To get a better look, place different kinds of food on a notecard (think sweet, salty, oily, a protein and a vegetable). Let the card sit outside, the longer the better to attract more ants.
4. When you return with your ANT ID card, see if it is easier to identify these ants by what they are eating. If you discover an ant that is not on the card, look it up online and let us know!

VOCABULARY

- **forager:** searches widely for food
- **colony:** a community of plants or animals

Note: Ants are usually harmless but fire ants can bite and sting if bothered. The stings can be very painful and some people may be allergic. It is best to not disturb any ant colonies, both for your safety and for theirs.



ANT ID card

White footed ant



sweets

Ghost ant



dead insects & sweets

Big headed ant



protein, grease & seeds

Acrobat ant



sweets & protein

Crazy ant



protein

Pharaoh ant



fats & oils