

Name _____



Where Do Ants Live?

Ants are among the most adaptable insects on Earth, and they can be found in many different places around the world. With over 12,000 known species, ants have made their homes in nearly every type of environment, from deserts to rainforests. Their ability to survive in such diverse habitats is one reason why they are so successful as a species.

Ants live in colonies that can range from just a few individuals to millions. They build their nests in places that provide protection, food, and the right conditions for their queen and her eggs. Many ants prefer to live underground, where they dig intricate tunnels and chambers. These tunnels provide shelter from extreme weather and predators. Some species, like carpenter ants, live in wood, carving out their nests inside tree trunks or fallen logs. Other ants, like leafcutter ants, build their colonies in the soil, where they can create mounds or underground gardens to grow fungus for food.

Ants can be found in forests, grasslands, and even urban areas. In rainforests, ants are some of the most common insects, with many species building nests high up in trees or hidden under leaves. In deserts, ants adapt to the harsh conditions by staying underground during the hottest parts of the day and coming out at night to search for food. In cities, ants often build their nests in cracks in sidewalks, walls, or near garbage where they can easily find scraps of food.

Different species of ants prefer different habitats. For example, fire ants thrive in warm, sunny areas with moist soil, while army ants live in tropical forests and move their colonies frequently. Arctic ants are one of the few species that can survive in cold climates, living under rocks or in mossy areas.

Ants can be found on every continent except Antarctica. This means they live almost everywhere in the world! Their ability to adapt to so many environments makes ants one of the most widespread and fascinating insects.