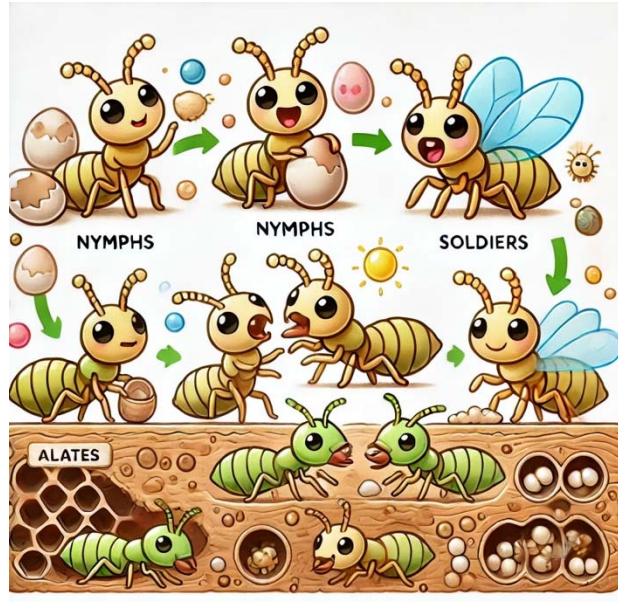


Name _____



The Life Cycle of a Termite

Termites are small insects with a complex life cycle. From the moment they hatch to their role in the colony, each stage of a termite's life is essential for the survival of the group. Let's take a closer look at how termites grow and develop.

Egg Stage

The life cycle begins with the queen termite, who can lay thousands of eggs every day. These eggs are tiny and oval-shaped. After about two weeks,

the eggs hatch into young termites, called nymphs. The queen's ability to produce so many eggs ensures the colony remains strong and continues to grow.

Nymph Stage

Nymphs are soft-bodied and pale in color. At this stage, termites go through several molts, shedding their outer skin as they grow. During this time, they are fed and cared for by worker termites. Depending on the needs of the colony, nymphs develop into one of three types: workers, soldiers, or reproductive termites, known as alates.

Adult Stage

Once termites reach adulthood, they take on specific roles within the colony. Workers gather food, build tunnels, and care for the eggs and nymphs. Soldiers have larger heads and strong jaws, which they use to protect the colony from predators. Alates, the reproductive termites, grow wings and leave the colony during a special event called the nuptial flight. After finding mates, they start new colonies.

Lifespan

The lifespan of a termite depends on its role. Workers and soldiers typically live for 1 to 2 years, while the queen can live for over 20 years. The king also has a long life, staying by the queen's side to help grow the colony.

Termites may be tiny, but their life cycle plays a big role in maintaining their colonies and the ecosystems they inhabit. Each stage of their development is important for the survival and success of their species.