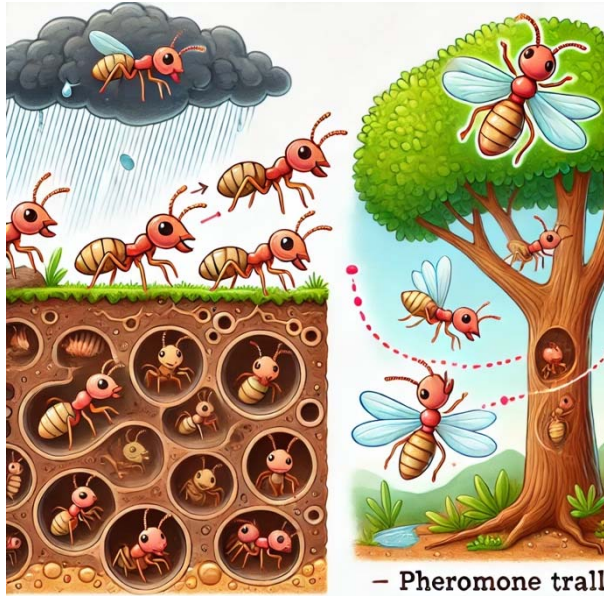


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## How Termites Move

Termites are small insects, but they are incredibly efficient movers. Their movements help them build nests, gather food, and avoid predators. Termites can crawl, climb, and even fly, depending on their role in the colony and the situation.

### Crawling and Climbing

Most termites move by crawling. With their six legs, termites can walk quickly through their tunnels and along surfaces. Their legs are short but strong, helping

them navigate the narrow tunnels they build underground or in wood. Termites also use their legs to climb surfaces, such as walls, trees, and even ceilings. This ability to climb allows them to search for food in hard-to-reach places.

### Flying Termites

Not all termites can fly, but some have wings. These flying termites, called alates, play a special role in the colony. They leave the nest during specific times of the year to start new colonies. Flying termites often come out after rain and are attracted to lights at night. Once they find a suitable place, they shed their wings and begin building a new colony. While they don't fly very far or for long periods, their wings are essential for spreading termite populations.

### Efficiency in Movement

Termites move with purpose and efficiency. They rarely wander aimlessly because their movements are usually guided by chemical signals called pheromones. These chemical trails help termites find food, avoid danger, and work together to complete tasks. For example, when worker termites discover a food source, they leave a pheromone trail so others can follow.

### Why Their Movement Matters

A termite colony depends on its members' ability to move efficiently. Workers need to travel between the nest and food sources, soldiers must quickly respond to threats, and alates ensure the colony's survival by flying to new locations. Whether crawling, climbing, or flying, termites' movements are key to their success.