



## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Discussion

Discuss the questions below in groups.

1. What is an 'ant'? (You can use your dictionary.)
2. What is a group of ants called? Answer: a col \_ \_ y
3. Do you have ants in your country?
4. What do you know about ants? Tell your group.
5. Do you like ants? Why or why not?

### B: Predicting

Today's article is about German children buying ants.

Finish the sentence below with your own ideas

Children love ants because (you finish the sentence)

.....

Compare your answers in pairs.

## Reading Activities

### A: Looking For Specific Information

Read Part One of today's article quickly and answer this question: *Why do children love ants?*

#### Part One

### - Young Germans Buy Ants -

BERLIN Wed Feb 25 (Reuters) - German children are going to pet shops because they want to buy ants. They are following a new trend of breeding ants, a German insect dealer said on Tuesday.

"Children love them because they can **observe** a **mini**-world. Every member of the colony has a different job to do, some collect food, others defend the queen," said the insect **dealer**, who sells at least two colonies per day at around \$126 each. (Continued/...)

#### Words:

**observe** - to watch somebody very carefully

**mini** - very small

**dealer** - a person who sells and buys things

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### B: Vocabulary

Look at Part One of the article again. Find the words in Part One that match the meanings below.

1. A shop which sells animals like cats, dogs, birds and insects.
2. A change to something different.
3. Keeping animals to make young ones.
4. Fight to keep away others who may attack.

### C: Comprehension

Read Part Two of the article. Answer the questions below.

1. How long can ants live?
2. Where does the dealer's biggest ant come from?
3. How big does it grow?



## Part Two

(.../Continued) "They are easy to look after, eat **household scraps** and can live up to 30 years," said the dealer, whose most expensive ants cost \$1,764 per colony of up to 20 ants.

The biggest ant he sells is from Southeast Asia and grows to around two inches said the 28-year-old. The dealer has been selling ants on the Internet since February 2000. He said most people preferred to come to his shop to **handle** the ants before buying them on the Internet.

### Words:

**household** - to do with the home and family

**scraps** - small pieces of things

**handle** - hold or touch something with your hands

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## D: Making Questions

**Part One:** Put the words into the correct order to form questions. Find the answers in today's article.

1. are / Where / German / going / children ?
2. Why / they / there / going / are ?
3. sell / How / many / colonies / he / does / day / a ?
4. do / they / What / eat ?
5. How / most / much / are / expensive / the / ants ?
6. ants / Where / does / he / sell / his ?

**Part Two:** Now answer the questions. Write your answers next to the numbers below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

## E: Complete The Table

Use the article to complete this table of information about the ants.

### German Dealer's Ants

Different jobs of ants in the colony: \_\_\_\_\_

Eats: \_\_\_ scraps

'Ruler' of an ant colony is called: the king / queen

Lives for: \_\_\_ years

His most expensive ant comes from: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Ants are: *difficult / easy* to look after.

## F: Listening Carefully

Your teacher is going to read today's article to you. There are six differences. Listen and find the differences. Write down as many as you can below:



## Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

### A: Dictation

Your teacher is going to read three sentences from today's article. Listen and write down the sentences. Don't look back at today's article!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### B: Discussion

Work together in pairs or small groups and discuss the questions below.

1. Would you like to keep an ant colony? Why or why not?
2. What are some other strange animals or insects that people keep?
3. Do you own a pet? If you do, tell your group about your pet.

### C: Pair Crossword

Your teacher is going to divide the class into two groups and give you half of a crossword. Work together in small groups and discuss the meanings of the words in your crossword. You are going to explain these words in English to a partner from the other group, so think of plenty of examples. Once you understand and know how to explain the words in your crossword, find a partner from the other group.

One of you is Student A and the other is Student B. Work together and fill in the crossword. Ask and answer questions with your partner. Do not show the other person your words!



# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Discussion - Notes

You may want to do this as a lead-in activity with the whole class. Students could brainstorm their answers for 4. and you could list them on the board

### A: Discussion - Answers

1. Ants, 2. A colony, 3. - 5. Answers will vary.

### B: Predicting - Notes

You may like to do this as a class discussion if you find the students have difficulty with predicting activities. Accept a range of answers and do not tell students if they are wrong or right.

## Reading Activities

### A: Looking For Specific Information - Notes

Ask the students to read quickly without using their dictionary. They only look for the answer to the question.

### A: Looking For Specific Information - Answers

Children love ants because they can look carefully at a world that is very small (a mini-world).

### B: Vocabulary - Answers

1. pet shop, 2. trend, 3. breeding, 4. defend.

### C: Comprehension - Answers

1. Up to 30 years, 2. Southeast Asia, 3. Around two inches.

### D: Making Questions - Answers

Part One

1. Where are German children going?
2. Why are they going there?
3. How many colonies does he sell a day?
4. What do they eat?
5. How much are the most expensive ants?
6. Where does he sell his ants?

Part Two

1. To petshops, 2. To buy ants, 3. Two, 4. Household scraps, 5. \$1,764 per colony of up to 20 ants, 6. At his shop and on the Internet.

### E: Complete The Table - Answers

Different jobs of ants in the colony: collect food, defend the queen.

Eats: household scraps

'Ruler' of an ant colony called: the queen

Lives for: 30 years

His most expensive ant comes from: Southeast Asia Length: around two inches.

Ants are *easy* to look after.

### F: Listening Carefully - Notes

Read your article no more than twice at a slow to average speed. Go over the answers with your students. (You may ask them to listen only, or listen the first time, and then listen and read (their article) the second time.)

### F: Listening - Text to read aloud by the Teacher

Young Germans Buy Ants

British children are going to pet shops because they want to buy ants. They are following a new trend of breeding ants, a German insect dealer said on Tuesday.

"Children love them because they can observe a mini-world. Every member of the colony has a different job to do, some collect food and water, others defend the queen," said the insect dealer, who sells at least four colonies per day at around \$126 each.

"They are easy to look after, eat household scraps and can live up to 30 years," said the dealer, whose most expensive ants cost \$1,764 per colony of up to 20 ants.

The biggest ant he sells is from South America and grows to around two inches said the 28-year-old. The dealer has been selling ants on the Internet since March 2000. He said most people preferred to come to his shop to handle the ants before buying them at his shop.

### F: Listening Carefully - Answers

1. British / German children
2. collect food and water / food
3. sells at least four / two colonies per day
4. South America / Southeast Asia
5. since March 2000 / February
6. at his shop / on the Internet

## Post-Reading Activities

### A: Dictation - Notes

Read the sentences no more than three times at a slow to medium pace. Remind your students about punctuation: you may wish to revise these names with them: capital letter, full stop (or period), comma and hyphens.

You may like to select different sentences for the dictation, depending on what you wish to focus on with your students. You could, for example, look at direct speech or superlatives (biggest, most expensive) or numbers (two colonies; March 2000).

### A: Dictation - Text to be read aloud by Teacher

1. German children are going to pet shops because they want to buy ants.
2. The biggest ant he sells is from South America and grows to around two inches said the 28-year-old.
3. He has been selling ants on the Internet since February 2000.

### C: Pair Crossword - Notes

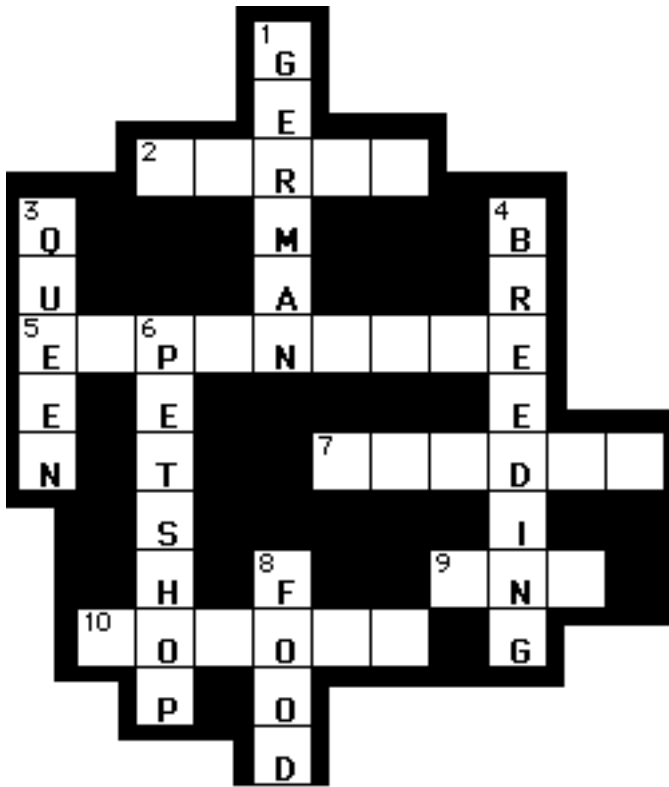
This is an information exchange activity. One student has the answers the other student needs. It's up to the student seeking the answers to work out what the missing words are by asking and listening to their partner's definitions.

Have one student fill in their crossword first and then have the students switch roles. Remind students that the words are in today's article. Students may refer to the article while they are doing the crossword or you can ask them to put it away.

### C: Pair Crossword - Crosswords To Be Copied And Given To Students

On next page (Page 5).

Student A



Student B

