



## Grade VII

### Supplementary: 1. The Tiny Teacher

#### Supplementary Reader

#### Soul of the chapter

#### The Smallest Yet the Wisest Insect

The chapter opens with the author making a catalogue of the smallest insect who is also the wisest insects. He wonders if it is the fly, the mosquito or the worm. He realizes that the insect that justly fits into this category is the ant. It is the most commonly found insect, the smallest and the wisest. The author seems impressed by the story of ant's life and analysis it.

On observing a row of ants moving up and down the wall, it becomes amply clear that the ants use their antennae or feelers to communicate or to talk to each other. Each ant greets all the other ants coming from the opposite direction by touching their feelers.

#### Ant's House

We have all children seen the most common types of ants, that is red and black ants. If we would have observed them, closely we would have known that ants live in comfortable homes called 'nests' or 'anthills'. Some rooms of this house are used by the queen ants to lay eggs, while others are used by young ants or grubs till they grow up. There are soldiers who guard the food and never go out to search for food. Ants follow a very simple and efficient division of labour. No one interferes in another's task nor do they harm each other. Therefore, ants are believed to lead a very peaceful life.

#### Queen Ants and the Grubs

The queen ant's life span is about 15 years. The queen ant casts away its pair of wings after its 'Wedding flight'. On a hot summer day, the queen ant leaves its nest



and goes to meet a male ant high up in the air. On its return to Earth, it does nothing. But lay eggs. The grubs or the ant's little ones come out of the hatched eggs. The soldiers take care of the grubs. The workers and cleaners feed them and clean them. The grubs take 2 – 3 weeks to become cocoons. They take another 3 weeks to become perfect ants. As they become perfect ants they begin to receive training from older ants, learn their duties and get ready to face the world.

### **Ant hills Inhabit Other Species Too**

Ant hills serve as homes not only to ants, but also for some other creatures like beetles, lesser breeds of ants and greenfly. Some of these creatures give sweet smell or sweet juices and some are kept as pets by the ants. The ants train the greenfly to give milk to the ants.

### **Ant : The teacher**

There is a lot of that human beings can learn from the ants. They work hard, have a sense of duty and discipline, maintain cleanliness and look after their young ones really well. They indeed could be called the tiny teachers.

### **NCERT Corner**

### **Check 1**

1. The story of an ant's life sounds almost untrue the italicized phrase means

- i) highly exaggerated
- ii) too remarkable to be true
- iii) not based on facts
- (ii) too remarkable to be true

2. Complete the following sentences

- i) An ant is the smallest
- ii) we know a number of facts about an ant's life because .....
- (i) and the wisest insect
- ii) It is the most common insect that we have seen since our childhood.



### **3. In what ways is an ant's life peaceful?**

An ant's life is peaceful because the ants have efficiently divided the work among themselves and no ant interferes in another ant's work or harms another ant.

#### **Check 2**

#### **1. How long does it take for a grub to become a complete ant?**

It takes about 6 weeks for a grub to become a complete ant. A grub becomes a cocoon in 2-3 weeks. It takes another 3 weeks to step out of the cocoon and become a complete or a perfect ant.

#### **2. Why do the worker ants carry the grubs about?**

The worker ants carry the grubs so that the grubs could not get air and sunshine. The grubs are not independent and cannot do all this work on their own.

#### **3. What jobs are new ants trained for?**

The new ants receive training from the older ants to become workers, soldiers or cleaners and take their responsibilities in the bigger world once they grow up.

#### **4. Name some other creatures that live in anthills.**

Beetles, lesser breeds of and greenfly are some other creatures that live in anthills.

#### **5. Mention three things we can learn from the 'tiny teacher' Give reasons for choosing these items.**

We can learn various lessons from this 'tiny teacher'

- i) Hard work. The ants are very hardworking we see them consistently working.
- ii) A sense of duty and discipline. The ants peacefully divide various duties among themselves and do not interfere in each other's work.
- iii) Cleanliness The ants are also cleaners. The cleaner ants wash and clean the grubs.

#### **Check 3**

#### **1. Discuss the following topics in groups**

##### **i) What problems are you likely to face if you keep ants as pets?**

Keeping ants as pets is not easy as they eat every tiny Particle of food and communicate to all the other ants their findings of food. One might find several tiny.



ants in every corner of the house. Therefore, it becomes problematic to have them as pets

- ii) When a group of bees find nectar, it informs other bees of its location, quantity etc through dancing .

Can you guess what ants communicate to their fellow ants by touching one another's feelers?

Ants communicate to the other ants through their feelers the knowledge of having found food or sugar.

2. Complete the following poem with words from the box below. Then recite the poem

Soldiers live in barracks  
And birds in.....  
Much like a snake that rests  
In a ..... No horse is able  
To sleep except in a .....  
And a dog lives well,  
Mind you, only in a .....  
Mind you, only in a .....  
To say 'hi' to an ant, if you will,  
You may have to climb an .....

Hole;      kennel;      nests;      ant hill;      stable  
Nests;      hole;      stable;      kennel;      ant hill

## Chapter Practice

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. How do the ants greet the other ants?

The ants greet all the other ants coming from the opposite direction by touching their feelers or antennae.

2. Who is the mother of the entire population of the ant colony?

The Queen is the mother of the entire population of the ant colony



### **3. How are the duties of the worker ants different from the soldier ants?**

The worker ants live in the reserved quarters and go out to search for food. The soldier ants guard the food and grubs live in barracks.

#### **Short Answer Type Questions**

#### **1. How many rooms are to be found in an anthill?**

A single anthill has hundreds of little rooms and passages. Some of these rooms are occupied by the queen ant that lays eggs. Other rooms function as nurseries for the young ants or grubs.

Yet another set of rooms are used as storehouses for food. An anthill also has barracks that are occupied by soldier ants.

#### **2. Who all are the residents of anthills?**

Besides ants, an anthill is also home to beetles, lesser breeds of ants and greenflies. Ants allow these other creatures to live in their anthills because ants like the pleasant smell of some of these creatures.

There are also certain creatures that give sweet juices and some others are treated like pets.

#### **Long Answer Type Questions**

#### **1. Why the ant is called the tiny teacher?**

An ant is called the tiny teacher because human beings can learn many lessons from an ant's life. An ant's life is peaceful and disciplined. Ants distribute all their work and responsibilities among themselves.

They have worker ants, soldier ants and cleaners assigned to them. No ant interferes in another's work nor do they harm each other.

They also are very hardworking creatures that work consistently the entire day. However, despite working very hard they never forget to greet each other.

#### **2. Describe the process of an egg becoming a complete ant.**

The queen egg takes a 'Wedding flight' on a hot summer day to meet a male ant in the air. On returning to the Earth, the queen ant casts away its wings. Thereafter



the queen ant does not know other works but lays eggs. When these eggs hatch, young ants or grubs come out of it. Grubs take 2- 3 weeks to become cocoons.

For the next 3 weeks, they lie without any food or activity till they break out of the cocoon and emerge as complete or perfect ants.





## Lesson : 1 Notice

### Notice

### Sample Notice

## Sample Notice

You are Radha of class 8th D. You have lost your Mathematics text book in the school playground. Draft a notice giving all the necessary details to retrieve your book.

**RAMJAS SCHOOL, PUSA ROAD**

**NOTICE**

20th January, 2014

Lost! Lost! Lost!

This is to inform all that, Radha Agarwal, of class 8th have lost my NCERT Mathematics text book in the playground during recess hours yesterday. It has a red binding cover with a blue name slip on it. Anybody who finds it please return it to me. The finder would be rewarded with a treat.

(Sign)  
Radha Agarwal

1 Name of the institution in capital letters

2 The word 'Notice' is written in capital letters  
Heading of the notice (in block letters)

3 Date on which the notice is issued towards the left

4 Content of the Notice (What, when and where)

5 Name and Designation of the person issuing the notice (in brackets)



Next Generation School



## Solved Questions

### Notice for Invitation For Tour

You are Rituraj, Incharge of the Activity Club of your school. A tour to Delhi is being organized by the School. Write a notice inviting students to join the tour. Put the notice in the box

#### SPRING DALES SCHOOL

#### NOTICE

22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2014

#### **Avail Golden Opportunity ! A Tour To Delhi**

All the students will be pleased to know that an educational cum entertainment trip is being organized by the school to Delhi. The details are

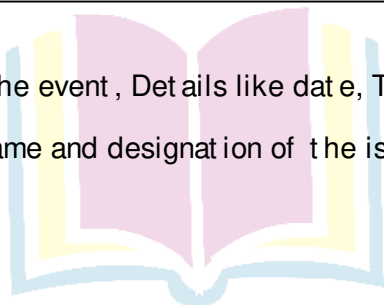
Classes	:	6 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup>
Dates	:	2 <sup>nd</sup> February – 6 <sup>th</sup> February
Cost per head	:	Rs 5000

Various historical and beautiful places would be included in the tour. For further information, please contact the undersigned.

Rituraj

(Incharge, Activity Club)

**Important Points :** Name of the event, Details like date, Time, Place, cost of the event, Name and designation of the issuer.



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