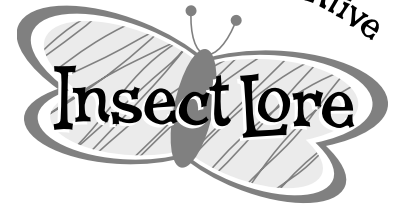
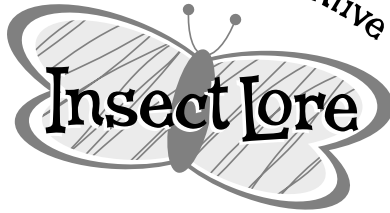


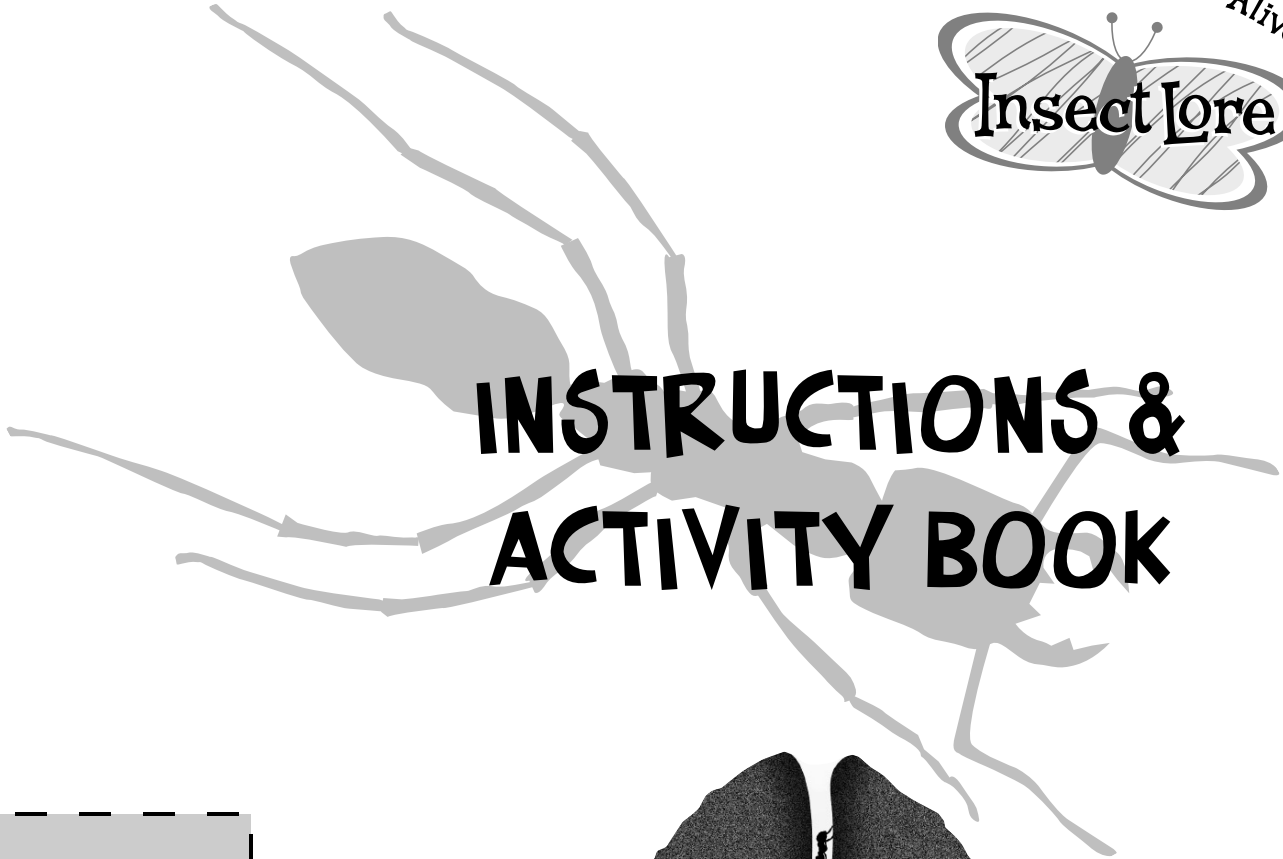
Nature Comes Alive



Nature Comes Alive



Insect Lore
P.O. Box 1535
Shafter, CA 93263
800-LIVE BUG
www.insectlore.com



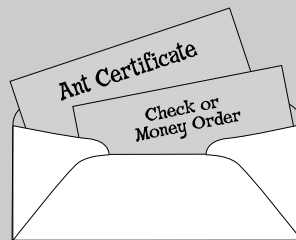
INSTRUCTIONS & ACTIVITY BOOK

CUT OUT THIS CERTIFICATE AND SEND WITH
CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

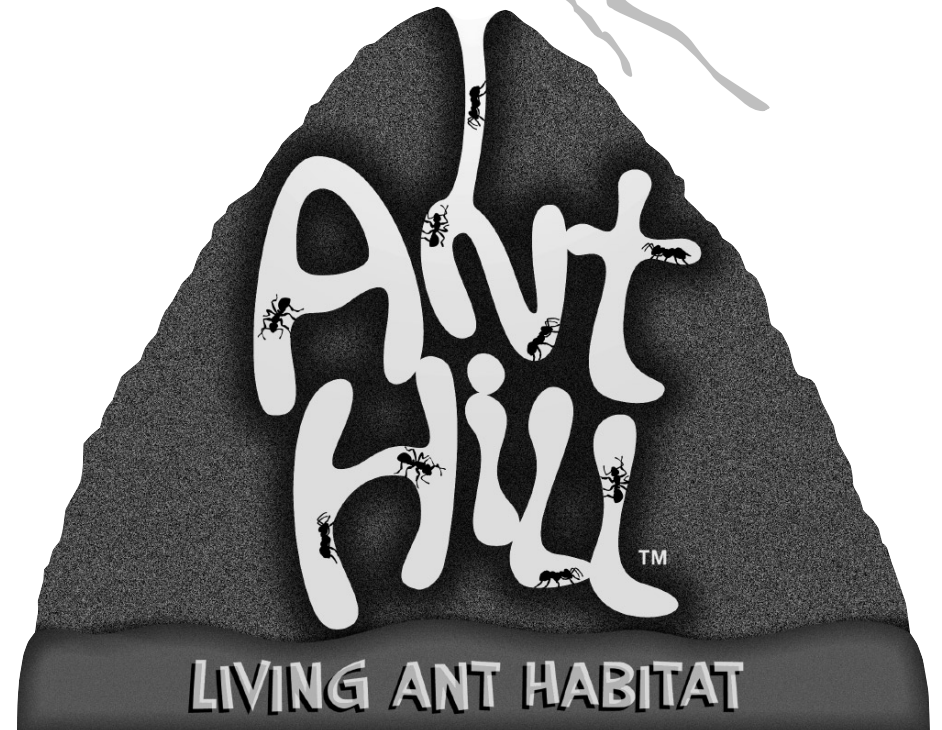
LIFE STUDIES

490 S. 400 W.

HURRICANE, UT 84737



(DON'T SEND TO INSECT LORE - WE DON'T KEEP LIVE ANTS AT OUR CALIFORNIA OFFICES!)



WELCOME TO THE ANTHILL - THE WORLD'S FIRST NATURALLY-INSPIRED LIVE ANT HABITAT

AntHill is the most natural live ant habitat ever! Ants love to dig in the dirt building tunnels, burrows and underground freeways that interconnect their lives. With AntHill, they have a properly built home for the activity they do best - digging!

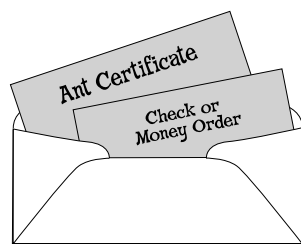
YOUR ANTHILL SET INCLUDES:

- The AntHill habitat
- Specially formulated sand for digging
- Sand rod to start the tunnels
- Certificate to order your live ants (additional fee required)
- AntHill fact and activity book

GETTING STARTED

First, determine when you want to receive your ants. You'll want to be around when your ants arrive in the mail, so don't mail the certificate right before taking a long vacation!

Locate the live ant certificate in the back of this booklet. Cut the certificate out, then write your name and address in the spaces provided. Please print as clearly as possible and double check your address. Be sure to enclose the proper amount of money to cover shipping and handling. Send the certificate to the address shown.



Your ants should arrive in 2 to 3 weeks. If temperatures are extremely hot or cold, allow for extra delivery time. There may be a delay in shipping if weather conditions in your area could endanger the ants (generally below 32°F or above 100°F). If your mailbox is located outdoors, you may wish to have your ants sent to an alternate address where you know they won't be exposed to the elements. The very best time to send for your ants is between the months of April and October.

SETTING UP THE ANTHILL

Prepare the AntHill habitat while you are waiting for your ants to arrive. Simply follow these step-by-step instructions:

1. Set the AntHill on a flat surface and open the lid.
2. Locate the bag of sand. Shake the sand to one side of the bag, so it settles to one side.
3. Using a pair of scissors, cut off a small corner of the bag.
4. Slowly and carefully, pour the sand into the FLAT side of the AntHill. This digging chamber is where your ants will do all of their tunnel building. Do not pour sand into the ROUNDED side. You may find funnelling the sand into the opening is easier if you use a rolled up piece of paper, as shown in Figure 1.

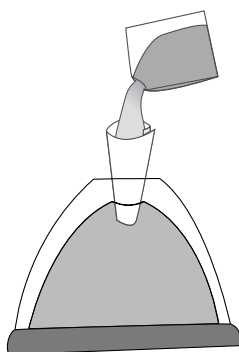


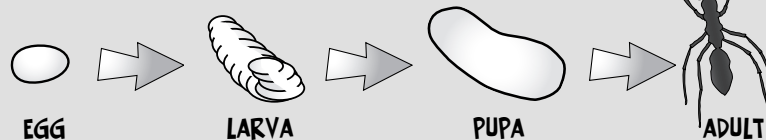
Figure 1

ANT ACTIVITY: STUDY A REAL ANTHILL

Go outdoors and see if you can find a real ant hill. Ants are easier to find from April through October. If you locate an ant hill, collect a few ants. Be very careful when collecting ants or any other insects as they may bite or sting. Before you go on your hunt, take along the following items; gloves to protect your hands, a spoon, a magnifying glass, and a small mason jar and lid. Bring the ants back home and compare them to the ants in your AntHill. What differences do you see between the two kinds of ants? Make a few notes. After your research is complete, release the wild ants outside using gloves to protect your hands.

NEVER COMBINE ANTS YOU FIND IN THE WILD WITH THE ANTS WE SEND FOR THE ANTHILL, BECAUSE THEY ARE LIKELY TO KILL EACH OTHER!

THE LIFE CYCLE OF AN ANT



LIVE ANT CERTIFICATE

1. Print your information below:

NAME

SCHOOL OR BUSINESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

2. Check one:

ANTHILL SUPPLY OF ANTS
(Approx. 25 ants – enclose \$2.00 (\$3.00 Canadian))

SUPER SUPPLY OF ANTS
(Approx. 50 ants – enclose \$4.00 (\$6.00 Canadian))

3. Send this coupon with check or money order to:

LIFE STUDIES
490 S. 400 W.
HURRICANE, UT 84737

(Don't send to Insect Lore - we don't keep live ants at our California offices!)

Open the AntHill lid, and, if the sand has dried, put a few drops of bottled spring water into the sand chamber. Do not oversoak. Wait about 5 minutes, then remove the sand rod.

After 10 minutes have passed, remove the ant tube from the refrigerator. Gently tap the ant tube so the ants fall to the bottom, then quickly open the ant tube and release all the ants into the AntHill chamber. Quickly close the AntHill lid.

It takes about 24 hours for your ants to get used to their new home. They may seem a bit lazy at first but don't worry. They will soon find their way around the AntHill and then begin to dig their tunnels!



ANT ACTIVITY: BE AN ANT DETECTIVE!

Ants are so fascinating to watch, you might spend hours discovering their habits. Why not keep a journal on what you see? The more time you spend watching them, the more you'll learn. You can either buy an inexpensive, ring bound journal book at your local school supply store, or make a journal from scratch! Your journal could include factual observations, artistic drawings, and more. Here are a few things you can look for:

- Do ants work as individuals or together? Is one ant in charge?
- How exactly do they dig?
- Do the ants have different jobs?
- Which types of foods do they prefer?
- What do they do with their dead?
- How are they communicating with each other?
- Do the ants ever sleep?

CARING FOR YOUR ANTS

Your AntHill ants are adult Harvester ants, and are fairly low maintenance creatures. They really don't require much care – in fact, you can care too much for them by overfeeding and overwatering them. Your ants will live longer if you follow these simple suggestions:

FEEDING

Harvester ants will eat almost anything, but their favorite foods are fresh vegetables and fruits. However, it's important to feed them sparingly. Feed them one small bit (about the size of an uncooked popcorn kernel) of celery, apple, or carrot. Put one bit of food in the AntHill about every third day, to feed 25 ants; two bits if you have 50 ants. Remember, **DO NOT OVERFEED YOUR ANTS!**

WATERING

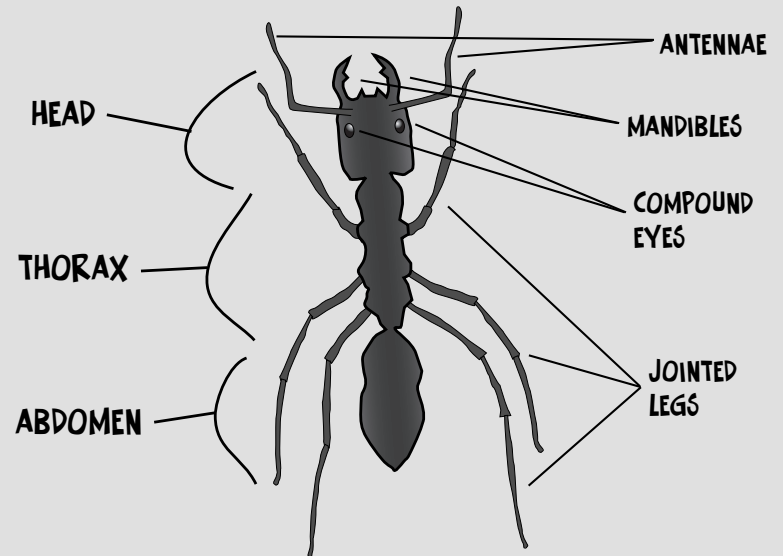
Find a small piece of facial tissue and get it wet. Open the AntHill lid and squeeze 2 drops of water into the sand area every third or fourth day. Try not to drop the water into the rounded area as too much water could collect in the base reservoir and the ants could drown. Remember, **DO NOT OVERWATER YOUR ANTS!**

GENERAL ANT CARE POINTERS

- Your ants will live longer if kept in a relatively cool place. Temperatures in the 60°F to 70°F range are best.
- Keep the AntHill out of direct sunlight.
- Try not to move the AntHill too often as this may disturb the ants' tunnelling. Don't mix other live ants with the ants you receive by mail.
- Don't put the AntHill near any areas that have been sprayed with insecticides.
- As your ants tunnel, they will bring sand to the top of the AntHill near the lid. Most of the sand will fall down into the rounded side. However, some sand may accumulate near the top, allowing the ants to crawl up and escape when you open the lid. If this occurs, open the lid and gently loosen the built-up sand with your sand rod or a pencil.
- If you see any condensation (small water droplets) form on the inside of your AntHill, your ants are in danger. Take time to open the AntHill lid and let the habitat dry until the condensation disappears. Be sure to babysit your AntHill during drying to avoid any escapees while the lid is open!

ANT ANATOMY

Ants are insects. All insects have three distinct bodyparts (head, thorax, abdomen), six jointed legs, and a hardened outer shell for protection.



QUESTIONS AND “ANT-SWERS”

WHERE DO MY ANTS COME FROM?

Your AntHill ants come from the rugged desert hills of the American Southwest. Our expert “ant wranglers” have years of experience in the delicate handling of your live ants. These professionals take special care in collecting, packing, and shipping your ants to you.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO RECEIVE MY ANTS ONCE I MAIL MY CERTIFICATE?

Please allow at least 2 to 3 weeks for live ant delivery. If temperatures are extremely hot or cold, allow for extra delivery time.

CAN I MAIL THE ANT CERTIFICATE AT ANY TIME OF YEAR?

Yes! Expect a slightly longer delivery time in the colder months of the year.

WHAT KIND OF ANTS ARE THEY?

The ants are commonly known as Western Harvester Ants. Their scientific name is *Pogonomyrmex Californicus*. They may bite, so be careful with them!

DO YOU SEND A QUEEN ANT?

No. Shipping queen ants is prohibited by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE ANTS GET OUT?

Chances of your ants escaping are very remote. If you keep the AntHill lid closed, it is virtually impossible for them to escape. The greatest chance that some ants may escape will be when you are first putting them into your AntHill. Make sure you read the directions completely prior to placing the ants in your AntHill habitat.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I FEED THEM?

Believe it or not, one of the worst things you can do to your ants is to give them too much water and food. Although your ants are active and seem to be working up a big appetite, it is best to feed them according to the directions (see “Caring For Your Ants”). Overfeeding and overwatering will shorten your ants’ life spans.

HOW LONG WILL MY ANTS LIVE?

If properly cared for, your ants will live in the AntHill for an average of two to four weeks. In the wild, these ants can live up to a year.

CAN I USE ANTS FROM MY YARD?

We do not recommend putting ants from your yard in the AntHill. The AntHill has been specially designed for large Harvester ants (the type we send for the AntHill when you mail in the certificate). These are larger than most ants found in backyards. Ants you find in your backyard may be smaller than AntHill ants and may escape from your AntHill through the air holes. If you try to use your own backyard ants in the AntHill, we cannot guarantee that they won’t escape.

WHAT DO I DO IF MY ANTS ARRIVE DEAD?

We guarantee your ants will arrive alive. In case yours don’t, please call our ant ranchers directly at 1-877-864-2207 for a free replacement.

CAN I ORDER MORE ANTS AND FRESH SAND?

Yes. To order new ants and fresh AntHill sand, call Insect Lore toll-free at 1-800-LIVE BUG or visit our website at insectlore.com.

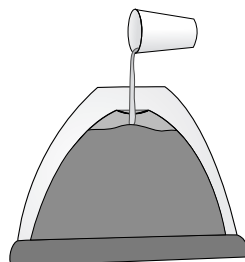


Figure 2

the sand fills the entire flat digging chamber. Try to fill the chamber to the very top with the sand. We send more than you need and you will have some left over.

5. Measure 1/4 cup of bottled spring water. Slowly pour about 3/4 of the water onto the sand in the flat digging chamber area and let it soak in. You will notice that the water causes the sand to shrink below the crest of the digging chamber. Pour more sand into the flat digging chamber until the chamber is full of sand again, like you did in Step 4.

Then pour the remaining water into the sand (Figure 2). This time, don’t worry if the sand doesn’t quite reach the crest of the chamber.

6. Locate the sand rod and stick it straight into the sand chamber (Figure 3). Leave this in place until your ants arrive in the mail.

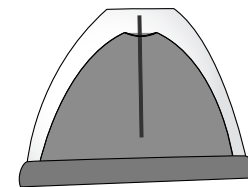


Figure 3



ANT ACTIVITY: TUNNEL FOR ANTS ON THE INTERNET!

While you’re waiting for your ants to arrive in the mail, get onto the Internet and find out more about ants! To search for current ant related websites, visit your favorite web search engine, or visit one of the sites listed below. Note that due to the dynamic nature of the Internet, some of these sites may no longer exist.

Myrmecology - The Scientific Study of Ants

<http://www.myrmecology.org/mac/nojavaindex.html>

The Natural History Museum, London

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/museum/creepy/antcastintro.html>

Ant Colony Developers Association

<http://www.antcolony.org/>

After you’ve researched, you may want to design your own ant website!

WHEN THE ANTS ARRIVE

Your ants will arrive by mail in a small, plastic tube. **WARNING!** Don’t touch the ants! They can bite and will inflict a painful sting. The sting causes pain and swelling. If you are ever stung apply ice to the area until the pain subsides. If symptoms persist call your physician.

Open the envelope and remove the ant tube. **DO NOT OPEN IT YET!** Place the ant tube into a refrigerator for about 10 minutes. Do not put the tube into the freezer as you may kill the ants. This cooling period will make your ants less active and easier to put into the AntHill.