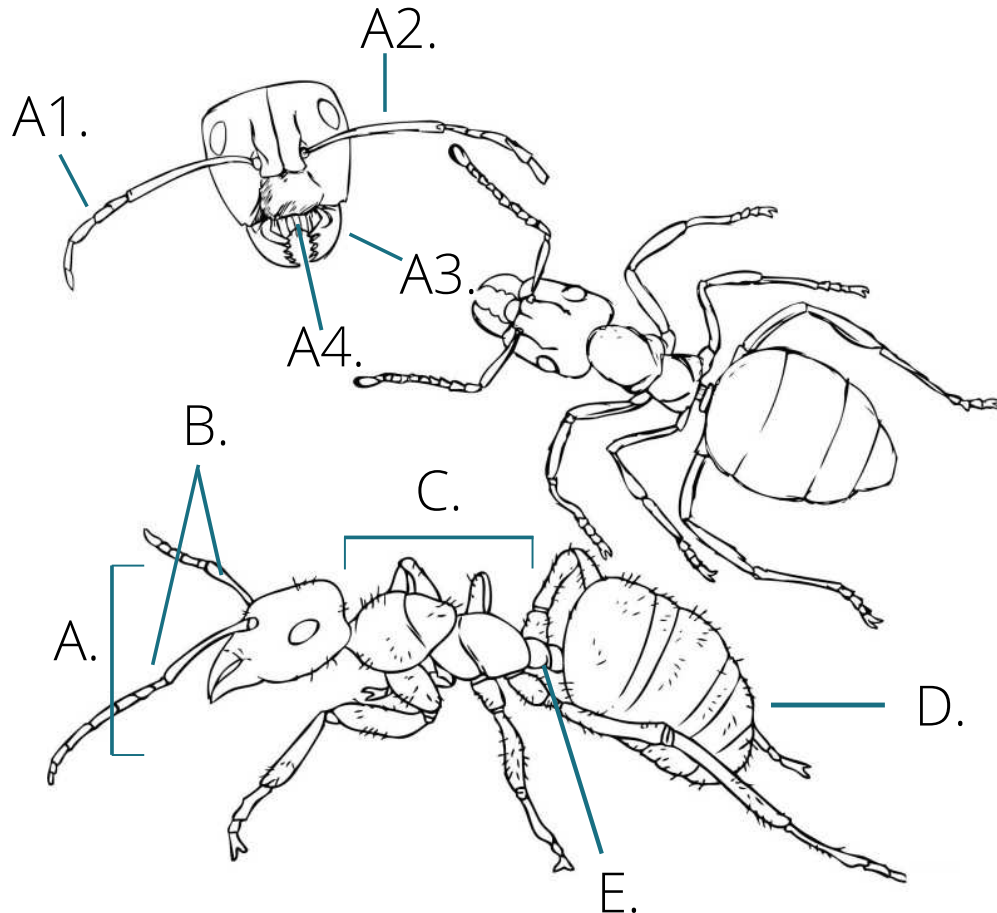


Arthropods: The Ant

Anatomy of an Ant



A. Head: Contains the mouth, mandibles, eyes, and antenna

A1. Lash: Segmented top of the antenna used for smell

A2. Shaft: Base of the antenna

A3. Mandible: Used for digging, carrying, collecting food and building nests

A4. Labrum: Base of the mouth

B. Antenna: Used to smell, recognize nestmates, and detect enemies

C. Thorax: Middle region where the three pairs of legs are connected

D. Abdomen: Contains vital organs and reproductive parts

E. Petiole: Connects the thorax and abdomen

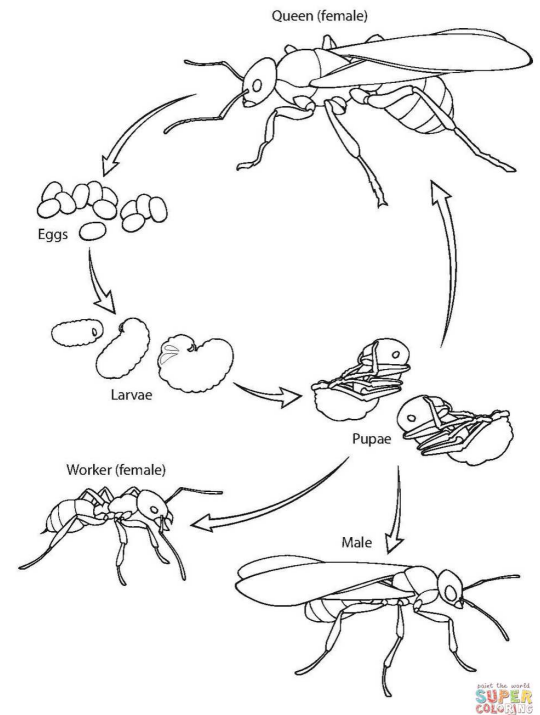
Arthropods: The Ant

Ants have colonized every part of the world, there are over 20,000 species of ants known. Ants have evolved and adapted for more than 100 million years in every biome on the planet.

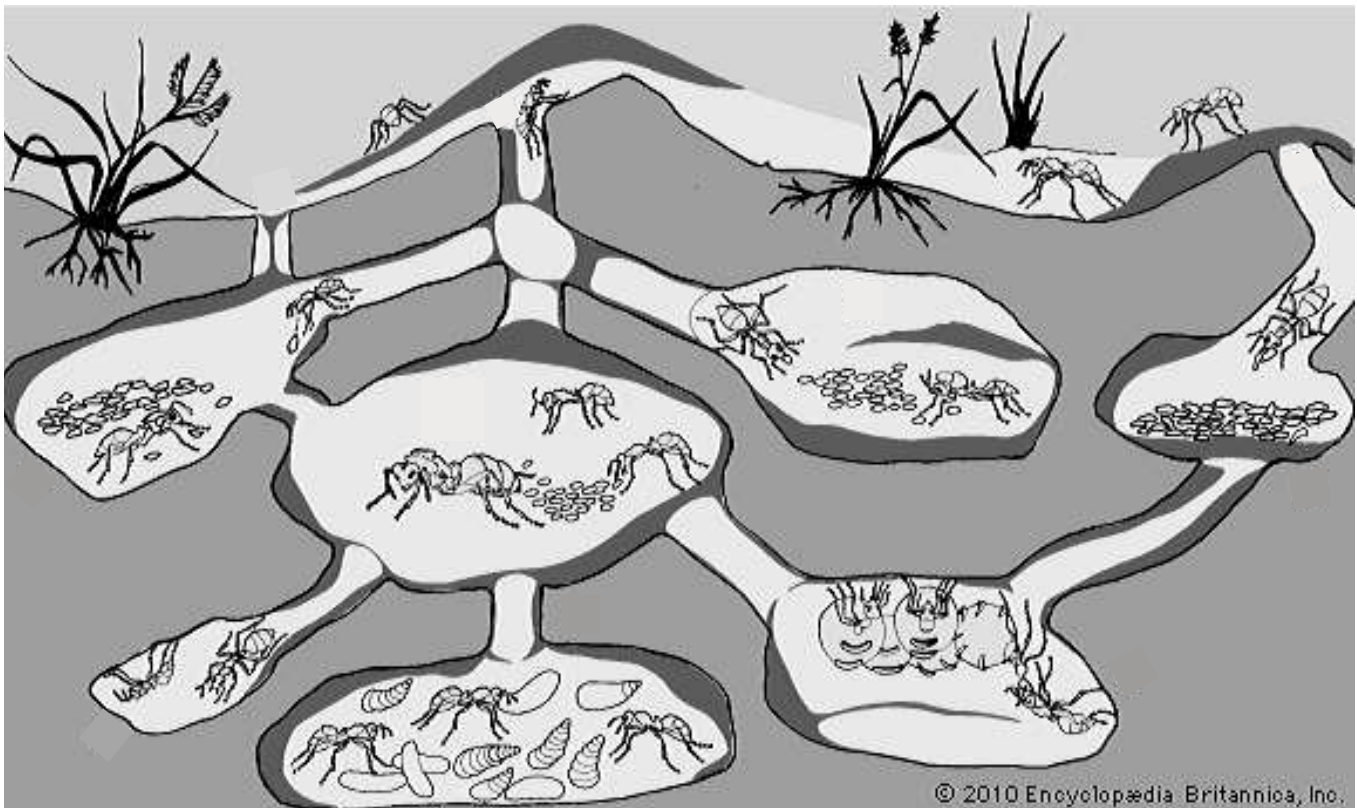
Ants are extremely social insects. Most ants live in large colonies that can consist of millions of members. There are three different types of ants. Each having individual jobs to keep the colony running. The Queen has one purpose, her purpose is to lay eggs. The Queen will mate with the male. The male lives to reproduce, and does not have a very long life span. The last type of ant is a worker, worker ants are female. She does not have the ability to produce young, her purpose is to supply the colony with food and build mounds.

Majority of ants build a mound to live in. The mounds are dug in dirt or sand. Some ants live in logs or fallen trees. Under the mounds, ants dig a system of tunnels, which connect rooms and chambers that each have specific purposes. Some rooms are used for food storage, nurseries, and resting places.

Life Cycle of an Ant



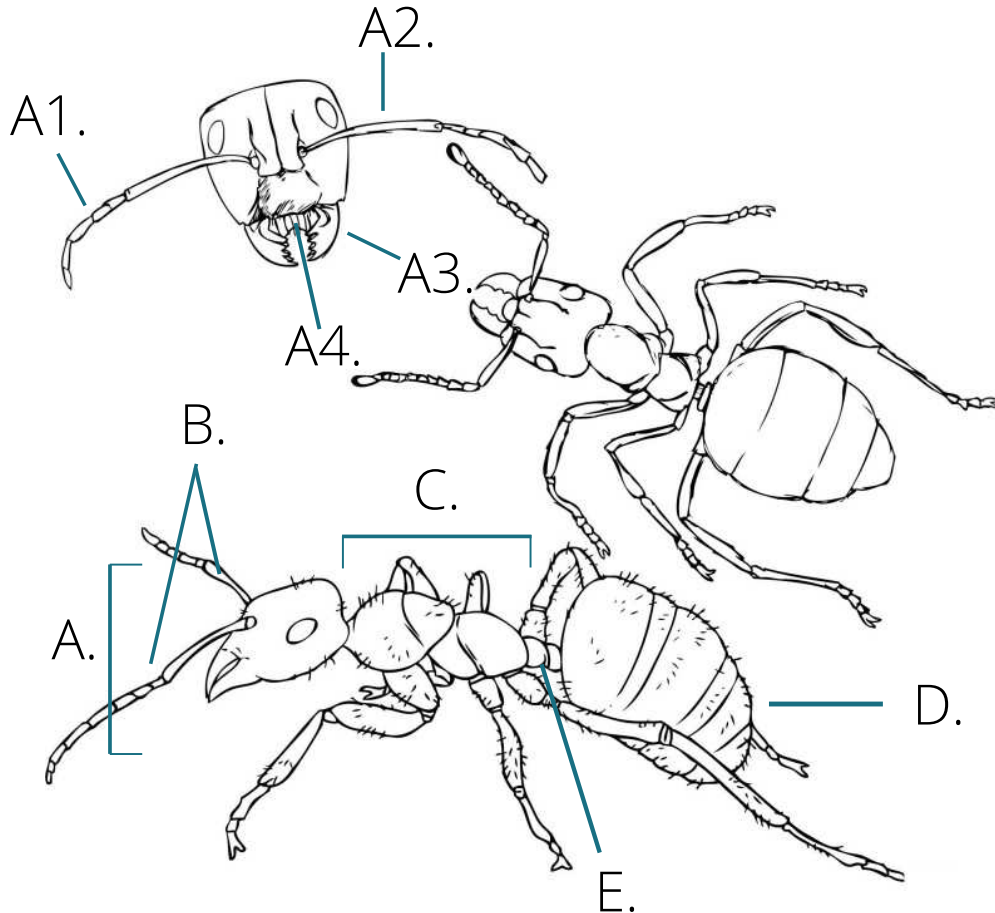
Ant Colony Mound



Arthropods: The Ant

Anatomy of an Ant

Match the correct name with the body part.



Word Bank

Head

Lash

Shaft

Mandible

Labrum

Antenna

Thorax

Abdomen

Petiole