

SUMMARY OF THE LESSON

The ant is a very small insect, but it is very intelligent and hard-working. It is wiser than any fly or earthworm. The story of an ant's life sounds almost untrue. But watching the behaviour of the commonest ant can teach us a lot.

The ants can be black or red. They live comfortably, in large and high homes called 'nests' or 'anthills'. Each home has hundreds of rooms and paths. In some of these rooms the queen ant lays eggs. Other rooms are used as nurseries for the young ones called 'grubs'. Workers and soldiers have separate rooms. Some rooms are used as store houses. No worker can hurt a younger. They live in peace. Each one does its share of work intelligently and bravely.

The queen ant is the head of the family. It lives for about 15 years. It has a pair of wings which it bites off after its wedding flight. And then it does nothing but lay eggs.

Eggs are hatched. Grubs are out. Workers feed and clean them. They are carried about daily for airing and sun bath. A couple of weeks lets grubs become cocoons which break in three weeks. Perfect ants appear. They have to be trained to do their duties.

The ants use their feelers to talk to other ants. They pass on messages through them.

An anthill is a home not for ants alone. Some other creatures like beetles and the green fly also live in it. Some of them give out sweet smell while others give sweet juices. The green fly gives them milk.

Human beings can learn a lot from this small teacher. We can learn from them hard work, sense of duty and discipline, cleanliness, loyalty and care for the young ones.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

COMPREHENSION CHECK

(Page 3)

1. The story of an ant's life sounds almost untrue.

The italicised phrase means

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

Ans. (i) highly exaggerated.

2. Complete the following sentences.

- (i) An ant is the smallest, _____
- (ii) We know a number of facts about an ant's life because _____

Ans. (i) insect we have seen.

(ii) people have kept the ants as pets and watched their behaviour closely.

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

Ans. The ants live in peace because each one does its share of work honestly, wisely and bravely. They don't interfere in the work given to others. They never fight in their group.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

(Page 5)

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

Ans. The grubs take in three to six weeks to become cocoons and then to be a complete ant.

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

Ans. The grubs are carried about daily for airing, exercise and sunshine.

3. What jobs are new ants trained for?

Ans. The new ants learn their duties from old ants as workers, soldiers, builders, cleaners, etc.

4. Name some other creatures that live in anthills.

Ans. Some other creatures that live in anthills are beetles, lesser breeds of ants and the open fly.

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

Ans. We can learn from the tiny ants the lessons of hard work, sense of duty and discipline, cleanliness, loyalty and care for the young ones. These lessons are necessary for the happiness and smooth working of the society.

EXERCISE

(Pages 5-6)

Discuss the following topics in groups.

1. (i) What problems are you likely to face if you keep ants as pets?
- (ii) When a group of bees finds 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?

Ans. (i) Keeping ants as pets is very uncommon or rare. The reason is that they don't take orders. They follow their own rules. Above all, they bite and spoil the food.

(ii) By touching one another's feelers, the ants give message to others about new-found food.

2. **Complete the following poem with words from the box below.**

Soldiers live in barracks

And birds in (a) _____,

Much like a snake that rests

In a (b) _____. No horse is able

To sleep except in a (c) _____.

And a dog lives well,

Mind you, only in a (d) _____.

To say 'hi' to an ant if you will,

You may have to climb an (e) _____.

hole	kennel	nests	anthill	stable
------	--------	-------	---------	--------

Ans. (a) nests (b) hole (c) stable (d) kennel (e) anthill.