

Ant Anatomy and Life Cycle:

Cloze Activity Answers

Fill in the blanks below using words from the word bank.

Word Bank:

abdomen	exoskeleton	metamorphoses
stages	adult	acid
male	cycle	egg
three	jaws	jointed

Ants, like all insects, have _____ legs, _____ body parts (the head, thorax, and _____), a pair of antennae, and a hard exoskeleton. The _____ is made up of a material that is very similar to our fingernails. Ants range in color from yellow to brown to red to black.

Some ants have a stinger and some can even inject poisonous _____ from the stinger (the stinger is at the tip of the abdomen, the rear body segment). Ants can also bite using their _____ (mandibles). Ants range in size from about 0.08 inch (2 mm) to up to about 1 inch (25 mm) long.

The life cycle of the ant has four _____: _____, larva, pupa, and _____. Fertilized eggs produce female ants (queens, workers, or soldiers); unfertilized eggs produce _____ ants. The worm-like larvae have no eyes and no legs; they eat food regurgitated by adult ants. The larvae molt (shed their skin) many times as they grow. After reaching a certain size, they spin a silk-like cocoon (against a solid object, like the wall of the chamber) and pupate. During this time the body _____ (changes) into its adult form. The pupa emerges as an adult. The entire life _____ usually lasts from six to 10 weeks. Some queens can live over 15 years, and some workers can live for up to seven years.