

Welcome fellow ant enthusiasts. This week we will host an ant feast and learn some amazing facts about these incredible insects!

This activity guide consists of the following parts:

1. Main Activity (pages 1-2)
Here you will find written instructions for the activity featured in the video
 2. Extras Ideas and Resources (page 2)
Learn more about the world of ants with these extra activities and challenges
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Main Activity: A Feast Fit for Ants



1. The first step is to create a fun design on your piece of paper. You could write out letters, make a picture- whatever you want- get creative!
2. Once you're finished making your design take it outside and go over it with your honey. Maple Syrup would also work well. Keep in mind that these are difficult mediums to be precise with, so it's totally ok if your design isn't perfect!
3. Now it's time to find the perfect spot for your artistic ant buffet! I recommend finding a spot that is away from your house and not near any regularly used walkways.



Ants

4. Next is the hardest part- waiting! I would give your local ants about 20-25 minutes to discover your buffet- but check on it as frequently as you want!
5. Once your ant friends show up, have fun observing them and their behavior. You can record the interesting things you notice in your nature journal!
6. When you are finished observing, tilt your paper and gently shake the ants onto the ground. You can compost your paper when you're finished.

One final note on your feast for ants- it's possible the ants could have a hard time finding your delicious design. If you wait for a while and you don't see any ants try moving your buffet to a different location or two. Additional time can also be helpful, as the ants might be busy getting the message out on how to get to your beautiful feast!

Challenges

Challenge 1: Ant Trails

Ants use chemicals called pheromones to create scented trails their fellow ants can follow. Can you create your own ant trail? Since you won't be able to use smelly pheromones like ants, invent a "pheromone symbol" using things from nature or objects from home. Your symbol could be something like a stack of pebbles, or a cool design you've drawn. Using your symbol, make a trail for a friend or family member to follow!

Challenge 2: Top Chef: Ant Edition

We know that ants like honey, but what other kinds of foods do you think ants would be interested in chowing down on? Pick one or two types of food- like an apple or orange slice and put them outside. See which one attracts the most ants to determine what they enjoy eating the most! Additional bonus- watch to see if your culinary creation attracted any other animals!



Extras

Leafcutter Ants- Leafcutter ants are amazing farmers! This short video from PBS gives you an inside look at how leafcutter ants cultivate their own food. [PBS Deep Look: Where Are the Ants Carrying All Those Leaves?](#)

Ant Sounds- Pheromones aren't the only thing ants use to "talk" with each other. Take a deeper dive into how ants use sound as a communication tool with this video from PBS' Gross Science. [What Sound Does An Ant Make?](#)

Ant Colony Anatomy- Learn more about what the inside of an ant colony looks like! This video takes you on an inside tour of a colony of fire ants. [What's Inside An Ant Colony?](#)