

Wood Ant Activity Pack



Scottish
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Trust



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Wonderful
Wood Ants

Written by Alison Greggans, Hayley Wiswell and Paul Kendall.

Cover photo: Wood ant nest mound at Mar Lodge. Copyright Gabor Pozsgai (www.photogabor.com)

'Wendy Wood Ant' designed and drawn by Jon Bishop (www.thegreyarl.com)

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www.woodants.org.uk

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Introduction

The following series of games/activities can be incorporated into a guided walk or used as stand alone wood ant games at an event or a nature club. Activities are played out at fixed points along the walk. It's preferable but not necessary to have access to a wood ants nest. However, once wood ant activities have been interpreted through these games, appreciation will be greater should there be opportunity to watch real wood ants going about their business.

Games revolve around a wood ant – Wendy – and her daily activities (see below) - with each child/parent playing the role of a wood ant worker. One child in your group will be a Wendy – depicted by a 'W' on her head band.

The 'Story board' sets out the scenario of the wood ant walk and the aim of the games. You can use the storyboard at the start of your walk to set the scene.

The pack can be used as a whole (in which case we recommend you take approximately 3 hrs) or separated out into individual games and activities. Indicative times are provided for each game



Key messages (intended outcomes)

Introducing children to the lifecycle of wood ants and their daily activities:

- What they eat and how they find their food
- How they work together and why this is important
- How they defend themselves and their colony
- That they have special relationships with other forest dwellers: aphids
- How they build their nests and why they are made the way they are
- How they fit into the woodland ecosystem and why they are called a keystone species
- Why we should look after them

Background information for each of the games is provided to help you illustrate key points of the wood ant's ecology.

GOOD LUCK!

Items, Models and Checklist of Resources

What you need

1. Wood ant pouches (bags) for collected food / invertebrate tokens
2. Head bands
One head band will have a shiny backing on the inside of the rim. This is the Shining Guest ant's head band. The identity of this ant will be explained at nest building stage, when *all* the roles of the ants are summarised. If possible, try and keep this a secret until the end of the walk as for the time being, this child is the same as any other worker ant. Suggested templates for Wendy and for worker ants to stick onto a card board head band are included
3. Story board
4. Ping pong balls (these will be eggs or lava to be placed on the nest at the end of the walk)
5. A small bag for collecting items
6. A jiff lemon squirter or something equivalent (squeezy bottle) to illustrate how ants defend themselves
7. Route cards
8. Ball of string; length of string approximately one metre
9. Food tokens (funny looking creatures, easy to identify and cut out)
10. Modelling balloon

Format of the walk

Use the **story board** to explain what the walk will illustrate.

Select members of the group to be:

- Wendy the Wood Ant
- The queen
- The shining guest ant
- The rest as worker ants



Models

Caterpillar

Balloons to make caterpillar: Look for Modelling balloons online (100 for a few pounds) or there are Giant nobby 36" long balloons (Pk of 5) on amazon. Balloons like these probably need a balloon pump to inflate.

Spider mask ('Milk that Aphid' game)

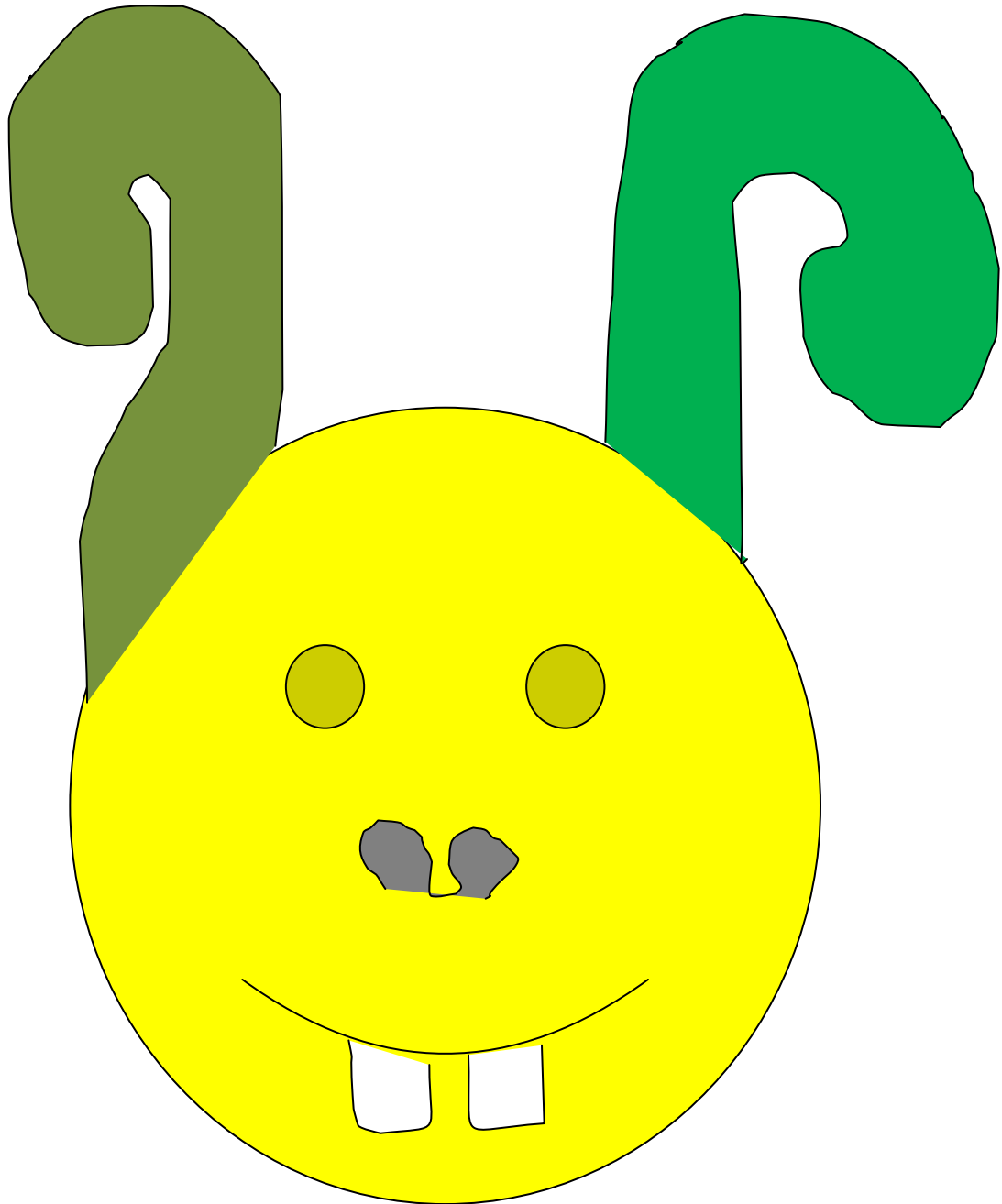


Formic acid spray pouch ('Milk that Aphid' game)

Jiffy lemon / squeeze bottle, with approximately enough for 4 good squirts of water

Food tokens ('Where's my dinner' game)

Generic, easy cut out model that representing another 'bogus' insect



Ant head bands

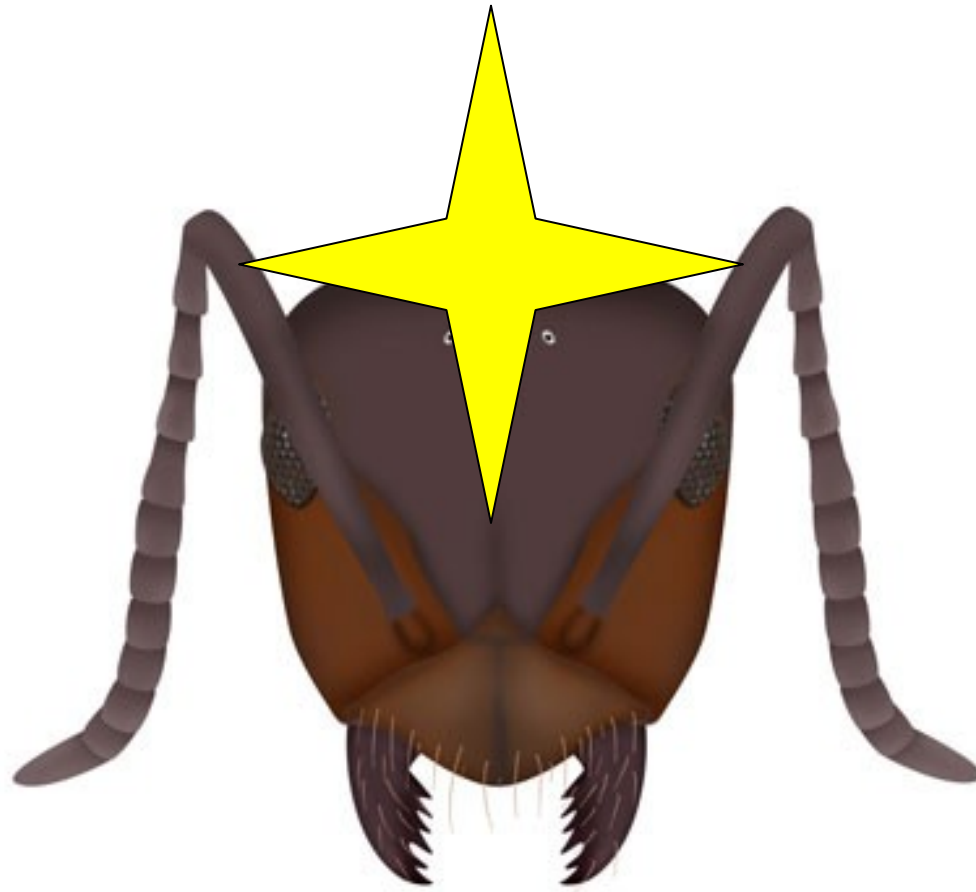
Worker ant head band picture



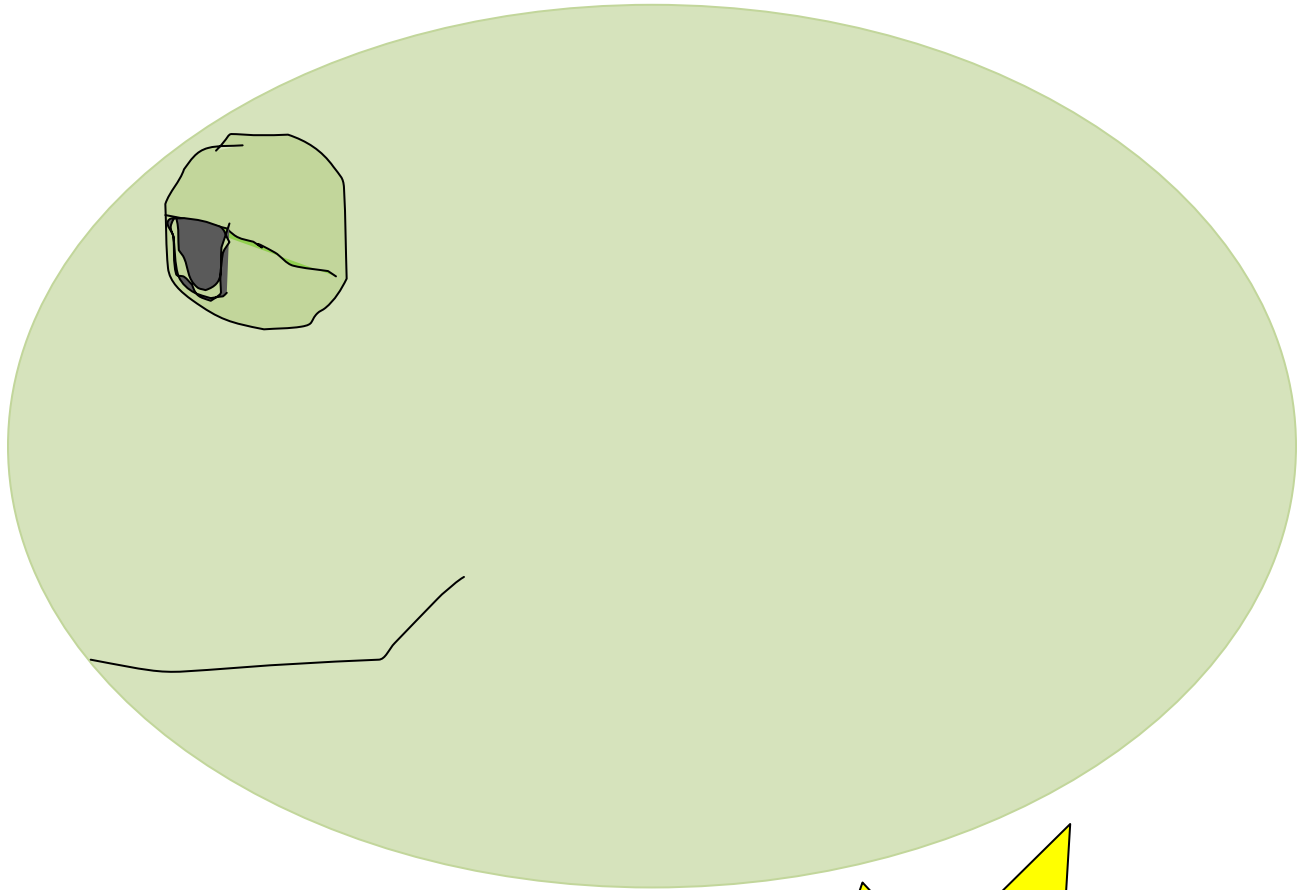
Alternate Wendy head band pictures



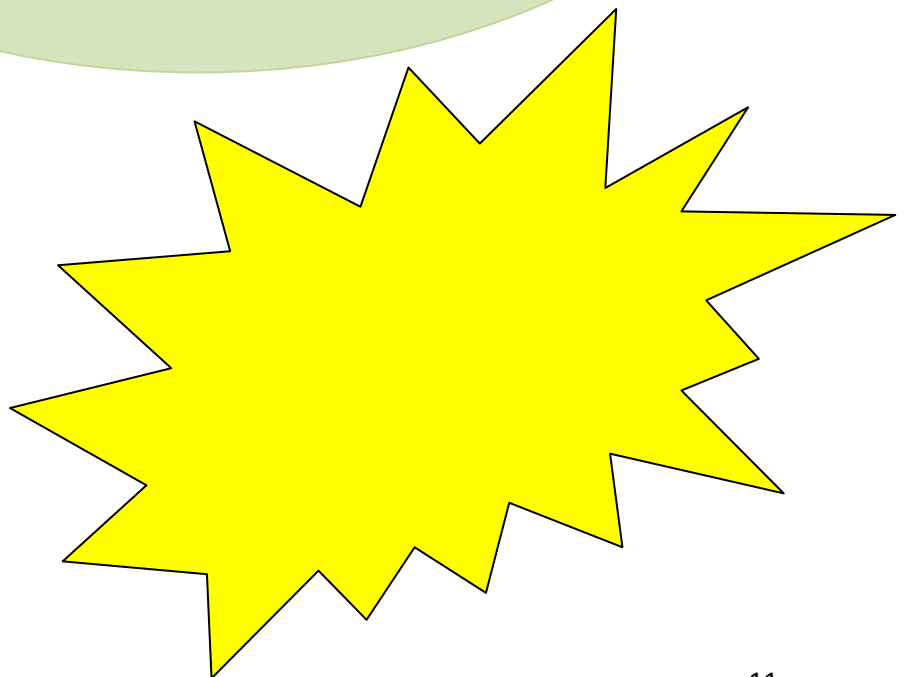
Queen ant



Aphid ('Milk that Aphid' / 'Where's my dinner' game)



Honey dew (‘Milk that Aphid’ game)





1. Start at a rock by the side of the path. Take about ten steps away from the path towards a tree stump.



3. Go around the mossy hummock and head off diagonally to the right about eight paces to a patch of pale lichen



Well done! You found the wood ant's food!
Bring this token back to the group



2. At the tree stump turn to your left and take five steps to a mossy hummock



4. The food the ant found is behind the nearest tree to the lichen

Example picture cards for 'Where's my dinner'

Background Information

Storyboard

Wood ants are an extremely fascinating group of insects and, where they occur, they are a vital part of the woodland ecosystem.

The aim of these games will demonstrate to children:

- Wood ant ecology and the function of a wood ant colony.

This sheet provides ecological information to provide background information supporting each of the games.



Game: Team ants

Demonstrates:

1. How ants work as a team to carry food back to the nest.
2. How they tackle prey much larger than themselves.

An individual ant is very strong; they are able to lift an object 25 times their own body weight. But for large, bulky items, the ants have to work together as demonstrated in this game – e.g. moving a large caterpillar down a line of ants.

Game: Milk that aphid

Demonstrates:

1. Mutualism between ants and aphids.
2. Defence mechanisms against other invertebrates.

Worker ants collect insect prey during the spring and summer as a protein source for their developing brood. However, the adult ants themselves actually rely on liquid food in the form of honeydew. Honeydew is produced by aphids, sap sucking insects that live in the canopy. Aphids suck sap from plants and in doing so they ingest large volumes of sugars, most of which they don't need so they squirt this out of special organs on their backs called siphuncles. Ants love this sweet sticky substance and they "farm" the aphids and encourage them to secrete the honeydew on demand by gently stroking them with their antennae. The worker ants drink the honeydew and store it in a specially designed crop (stomach) in their abdomens. The abdomens of ants full of honeydew look swollen and pale coloured.

The worker ants carry the honeydew back to the nest to feed other workers, especially those workers which do not forage and are involved with nest maintenance. In return for harvesting the honeydew, the ants protect the aphids from predators and even move them around to the best parts of the tree for drinking sap.

The Wood Ant Spider (*Diplocephalus fuscus*) is a type of money spider that specialises in hunting wood ants as they move up and down Scots pine trunks foraging for aphids. The spider spins a network of silk threads across crevices in the bark and foraging ants become tangled in this web. The spider then bites the ant at the base of the antennae (where there is soft membrane) and injects a toxic venom which digests the tissues inside the ant's head on which the spider feeds. To avoid its prey being scavenged by other ants, the spider may move its prey elsewhere. Sometimes the spiders can become prey themselves to wood ants.

Wood ants can be observed pointing their abdomens and spraying liquid if you get too close to the nest or disturb an individual ant. The ants are spraying formic acid (which smells like vinegar) and this is a defence mechanism and is also a way of subduing large prey items.

Game: Find my dinner

Demonstrates:

1. Communication methods to exchange information about a food source.
2. How wood ants learn a series of cues in order to locate a food source.

When a forager leaves the nest to look for food, it may search close to the nest at first, and then look further a field, sometimes up to 200 m from the nest (quite a distance for an animal less than 1 cm long!), therefore its methods of orientation need to be highly sophisticated so that it can find its way home. When a suitable food source is found and it is too much for a single ant to carry, the ant returns to the nest to inform fellow nest mates of the food source. The ant will tell its nest mates about the food it has found using tactile messages with its antennae or with chemical cues. Sometimes ants will feed nestmates some of the food they have found to help them recognise the source. The workers will then follow the directions back to the food source where they collect as much of it as they can, or work together to carry it if it is a large prey item like a dead beetle for example.

Research has shown that wood ants memorise a map of the forest floor in order to locate a food source, and can even find their way in the dark. They rely on remembering a series of visual and tactile cues using their eyes, feet and antennae to build up a mental map e.g. over a rock then along a twig then across a fallen log...etc. If the food source is particularly abundant, such as a colony of aphids producing honey dew, a foraging trail of hundreds of ants will develop and these can often be seen radiating away from the nest. Some species of ants also lay down pheromone (chemical scent) trails to mark routes to sources of food. However, it has been demonstrated that wood ants prefer topographical cues over chemical ones and can even find specific points when their cues have been moved!

Game: Forest food web

Demonstrates:

1. Woodland ecosystems and the place of wood ants within it.
2. A food web and how it works.

Wood ants are believed to be a “keystone” species, meaning that they are tightly linked to many other organisms within the ecosystem, performing important roles at various trophic levels. If wood ants are removed from an ecosystem, organisms on many different levels will be affected.

As are all species of ants, wood ants are voracious predators and feed on a wide variety of insect prey, both alive and dead. They help to control the numbers of other predators on the forest floor such as wolf spiders and ground beetles. They also have an affect on tree growth by a) increasing the numbers of aphids through “farming” which have a negative impact on trees and b) removing herbivores like caterpillars which are detrimental to trees and can cause pest outbreaks.

Wood ants are themselves food for many other animals, such as the wood ant spider (see above) and birds such as woodpeckers and capercaillie.

Within the nest of wood ants live “guests” – species dependent on the wood ants for survival. Many of them are only found within wood ant nests. Some are welcome, others are not! One such species is the shining guest ant (*Formicoxenus nitidulus*). This species of ant is entirely dependent on wood ants for its survival and does not make independent colonies. Having its own private quarters inside the mound, it can be seen on the surface of the nest on sunny days; its presence revealed by its much smaller size (compared to wood ants) and its extremely shiny head and body. Other guests include a species of woodlouse (which has lost its eyes and pigmentation from living inside the dark nests), specially adapted beetles and even moth caterpillars. One beetle called *Clytra-quadripunctata* looks similar to a ladybird and lays its eggs on the surface of the wood ant nests. The developing caterpillars live inside a hard case and wander about the nest, feeding on scraps.

Wood ants are also important for distributing seeds of particular plants, such as the rare small cow-wheat (*Melampyrum sylvaticum*). The construction of the nest involves many underground chambers and the soil around wood ant nests is known to be attractive to earthworms. An abandoned wood ant nest contains rich soil for plants to colonise and in particular the rare moss (*Buxbaumia viridis*) is known to colonise derelict mounds.

Activity: Make a wood ant nest

Demonstrates:

1. What wood ant nests are made of.
2. The careful construction to maximise heat absorption, ventilation and weather proofing.

3. How the nest is maintained and kept cleaned.
4. Commensualism - how species can live together, but sometimes only one may benefit (example, the shining guest ant).
5. Different roles wood ants play within a colony.

The nest of the wood ant is an extremely sophisticated piece of engineering, comprising a thatched mound on the surface and a network of chambers and galleries leading deep underground. Wood ant nests can reach sizes of up to 3 m wide and contain up to 1 million workers. Materials of particular size and shape (easy to carry and manipulate) are collected to thatch the nest, usually including soil, pine needles, twigs, small stones, leaves, grasses, moss and other bits of ground vegetation such as heather and blaeberry. The thatch is woven in such a way that rainwater runs off its surface, keeping the inhabitants dry.

The nest is often built with a large south facing surface in order to absorb sunlight – ants need to be warm to remain active (they are cold blooded) and the optimal nest temperature for development of the brood is between 28°C and 30°C. Building the nest over a tree stump also traps heat as the wood decomposes. Furthermore, on a sunny days workers (and sometimes queens), can be seen “sunbathing”; absorbing warmth into their bodies which they take into the nest and pass onto other ants and to the brood. Sometimes pupae are brought to the surface of the nest to absorb warmth from the sun, and larvae and pupae are constantly moved around the inside of the nest depending on their temperature needs.

It is crucial that the nest is kept clean in order to prevent the build up of bacteria and parasites. If you look at the thatch of the nest you can often see round balls of pine resin on the surface. Pine resin is the “scab” of the tree which covers up wounds and contains natural antiseptic to prevent infection. It is believed that ants collect this resin to put in the nest as a kind of cleaning agent. The nest is rigorously maintained and young workers in particular are involved in nest care; only when they are older and more experienced do they wander outdoors to forage. The thatch is continuously checked for damage and repairs are made accordingly.

The colony is split into different roles or castes, and at the head of the colony is the queen. Then there are different types of workers, those that forage, and those that maintain the nest. Below is a breakdown of the different castes.

- The queen (or various queens): The only individual in the colony that lays eggs – she is responsible for creating all the other ants in the colony, these are her daughters. The queen will mate only once in her life, and she uses this sperm to fertilise her eggs for the rest of her life which can be 15 years or more. Fertilised eggs become female (the sterile workers) and the unfertilised eggs become male (these are only produced in late summer).
- The workers: Sterile individuals responsible for meeting all the needs of the colony.
- Males: Winged individuals which only appear for a short period to mate with newly emerged queens and then die. They have no other role in the colony and are short lived.

The wood ant reproductive cycle.

1. All ants develop from an egg, from which hatches a larva; a pale, legless grub. Once mature, the grub pupates in a silken cocoon from which the adult ant hatches.
2. Inside a wood ant nest in late summer, the queen lays some fertilised eggs that become new queens rather than just sterile workers (they are fed extra food or higher quality food). The queen also lays some unfertilised eggs which become males. These queens and males have wings and when the weather is perfect for flying, they make their way to the top of the mound and fly away, seeking males and queens from other colonies with which to mate. Once mated, the males die and the newly mated queens pull off their wings and make a chamber underground where they lay their first batch of eggs. These hatch as small workers and help the queen rear the subsequent batch of eggs. Eventually enough workers are produced to start constructing the underground chambers of the nest and building the thatch. This is how a brand new colony starts.
3. Sometimes, instead of leaving her mother's nest and starting a new colony, a newly mated queen decides to stay at home instead. This leads to a single nest having multiple queens, though only one is usually dominant. This means that a single colony can survive for a long time, with a continuous succession of queens, sometimes for 50 years or more!
4. Occasionally one of these multiple queens decides to move house (on foot, because she has already lost her wings) taking a party of workers with her. The resulting nest mound nearby often stays connected to the natal nest through sharing resources. This process is known as budding and allows one colony to dominate over a large area by forming a network of nest mounds or super colony, with workers, brood and supplies being exchanged between them. If one particular nest in this colony network is struggling (e.g. through lack of food or shading) then the other nests in the network can help out by supplying extra food and workers.

The workers

The vast majority of the ants in the colony are workers and they are all female and all sisters. The workers can be split into two groups:

Those that stay in the nest:

- Usually young workers
- Tend and fuss over the queen(s) and the brood; keeping the eggs and larvae clean.
- Feed the larvae with re constituted food (protein rich food like caterpillars are a favourite).
- Ensure the brood stays at a constant temperature by moving them deeper into the nest when the outside temperature is cool, or to the surface when it is warm.
- Clean the nest taking waste to the surface and away from the mound.
- Ensure the nest is adequately ventilated (open or close small vents, like little windows).
- Defend the nest from attack and rebuild if damaged.

Those that go out and forage:

- Usually on masse into the forest to find food for the colony (honeydew, insect prey, seeds).
- Collect plant material to build up the nest.

Shining guest ant

The shining guest ant (mentioned briefly earlier) is a poorly understood species owing to its nature of living deep inside wood ant nests. It is unlikely that the wood ants benefit (or not) from the having this species in their nests but they tolerate its presence and the shining guest ant is largely ignored. This allows it to pass freely among the wood ants, even foraging with them and moving house if need be. This guest is believed to be particularly fussy, and only dwells in healthy nests; once a nest becomes unsuitable the shining guest ant moves on.

Story board for wood ant walk

Aim: At the end of this walk, you will know just how wonderful wood ants are.

Meet Wendy the Wonderful Wood Ant

Wendy wood ant lives with her mother and sisters deep in the heart of the forest. Wendy is a busy little ant who spends her days keeping the nest clean and tidy, and looking after her little sisters. But Wendy dreams of the day when she'll be old enough to travel far from the nest. What adventures will she have? Who will she meet? Sometimes, on a hot sunny day, she'll make her way through the long tunnels that lead to the top of the nest. She likes to sit there sunbathing and dreaming of the exciting world that lies beyond the nest...



Today is the day that Wendy finds out for real. Her own colony has become too big so together with a new queen, they are searching for a new nest site to start their own colony. They just need to find a suitable site and survive the many adventures they have as they move through the forest.

Wendy, the queen and her sisters will find a new nest site and make a home. The queen will snuggle-in deep inside the nest where it's warm and begin to lay her eggs. Wendy and her sisters will care for the queen and her 'babies' until they hatch out into other ants. This new generation of wood ants will carry on with the work of being a good wood ant like Wendy.

Our games will show us what Wendy and the other wood ants do everyday:

- Find food to eat
- Navigate through the forest
- Work as a team
- Defend the nest

In a healthy forest, wood ant nests can survive 50 years or more. At the end of our walk, we will have a chance to have a look at a real wood ant nest. I wonder if Wendy will be there?

Key conservation messages

- Wood ants are not scary, dirty or horrid but *wonderful!*
- Wood ants are a 'keystone species' which means that a lot of what goes on in the forest depends on them. They are indicators of a healthy ecosystem.
- Wood ants need our care and respect – so don't 'put their windows' in by damaging their nests. The nests are very delicate and have taken years to build.

Essential kit

- A deflated sausage shaped balloon
- Aphid shapes and honeydew tokens (already placed in the forest)
- Food tokens (already placed in the forest)
- Route cards
- Spider mask
- String
- Jiff lemons
- Wood ant pouches
- Wood ant head bands
- Individual lengths of string - 1m long
- Spy glass / magnifying glass

WOOD ANT GAME: Team Ants

Time 5-10 mins

Aim: To appreciate how important team work is for an ant, when carrying prey back to the nest when its twice or three times its own size

Resources:

- A sausage shaped model balloon that resembles a fat juicy caterpillar.

Game plan:

Work as a team to manoeuvre a caterpillar along an ant line without it touching the ground.



The leader explains:

- How strong Wendy and her sisters are - they can carry an object 100 times their own body weight, equivalent to us carrying a car with our teeth!
- The importance of working together when the snack is twice the size of you!

Explain that the group must now carry a caterpillar by working together, but there are certain rules to make it harder!

How to play:

- Wendy starts at the front with a partner, and the others all line up behind them, two by two.
- Each pair holds the balloon using their foreheads only.
- The balloon is passed to the next pair behind them, down the line
- The first two ants, once free of their quarry, join the end of the line to await their next turn ... and so on.

Hints for success

- If the balloon is head-held at one end (if possible) there should be room for the next pair to grab the free end of the balloon with their heads.

WOOD ANT GAME: Milk that aphid

Time: 15 mins

Aim: To understand how wood ants farm aphids, and defend themselves against an ant eating predator.

Resources:

- Length of string or wool.
- Lemon jiffy with a small amount of water (approximately two squirts-worth).
- Green aphids (on string, suspended from tree branches).
- Several detachable honey coloured tokens on the body of each aphid.
- Spider mask.



Game plan:

Collect as many tokens as possible from aphids hanging in trees, whilst defending yourself from being attacked by an ant eating spider (the leader!).

Explain that wood ants:

- Have found aphids (greenfly).
- Aphids live high up in the tree tops and feast off sap from inside leaves. They digest this and instead of poo, squirt out a sticky, sweet liquid called honeydew - ants really love this stuff! It gives them lots of energy to carry out their work.
- Wood ants find aphids in the tree tops and tickle them with their antennae to encourage aphids to squirt out their honeydew (the yellow token on the aphid hanging in the tree).
- The ants must collect as many of the honey coloured tokens as they can around this particular tree and put these in their bag.
- BEWARE! Dangers lurk on the tree – a spider called the wood ant eating spider finds wood ants rather yummy! It traps wood ants in a special sticky web as they walk up and down the pine tree.

How to play

- Each ant hunts for their aphid and collects as many tokens as possible, putting them in their bag as they do so.
- Meanwhile the wood ant spider (the group leader) hides behind a tree waiting to pounce. The spider cannot leave the tree and, at all times, has to have one hand on the trunk.
- Ants come to milk the aphids of their honeydew while the spider gently strikes out with its web (string).
- The ant can squirt formic acid to defend itself. In this case the spider retreats and the ant carries on.
- If there is no water left in the jiffy lemon, and the string touches the ant it becomes snared in the web stands with its back to the tree.
- The game continues until all ants are caught, or no honeydew is left.

WOOD ANT GAME: Find my Dinner

Time: 10 – 15mins

Aim: To understand how ants communicate messages to help each other find a food source.

Resources:

- Small invertebrate tokens
- Route cards

Game plan:

Wendy is leading a team of ants to hunt for food. She has found some aphids and has come back to the colony to tell them where the food source is. She conveys this message through touch and smell, giving them a chemical map as to where to find this food. The map is conveyed via picture (route) cards. Explain that food is hidden in the forest and that she knows where it is. She has retraced her steps and can now show other ants where to go to find it.

Explain that Wendy:

- Is a predator and eats other insects so has to leave her nest to find her food.
- She must remember the route to back to the nest so she can tell others.
- She can give them this information using smell and touch.

How to play:

Divide your group of ants into different teams and give them each a number of route cards with directions. These directions are dependant upon landmarks in your own setting. The example cards will indicate what these route cards can look like and how the routes are explained.

Each teams' route leads to a different location where invertebrate tokens are hidden in a particular habitat – a beetle in a log pile, a caterpillar in a bush...etc. As the route leads the ants to the invertebrate tokens they are asked to collect these and bring them back to the leader. The ants can put their token into their bags.



WOOD ANT ACTIVITY: Build a wood ant's nest

Time: 20 – 30 mins

**Aims: To make a nest for the queen.
Understand each others roles.
Meet your visitor – the shining guest ant.**

Resources:

- Natural materials from brash that children think wood ants would use to build a nest. Ensure they only gather dead materials.

Game plan

To construct a wood ant nest according to the building specifications explained by the leader.

As the nest is being constructed the leader explains:

1. That Wendy is a clever 'solar engineer'. She can keep the young ants (or brood) safe and snug by regulating the nest temperature to around 28-30°C. She does this by:
 - Building the nest on south facing slopes to absorb and trap sunlight.
 - Building the nest over decomposing wood to provide internal central heating.
 - Providing lots of ventilation holes in the thatch (windows) which can be opened or closed as required.
 - Sunbathing on hot sunny days to absorb heat in her body, and then releasing it inside the nest.
 - Moving the young to different parts of the nest where it is warmer.
2. The nest is waterproof and clean.
 - A domed shaped nest together with a thatch of pine needles helps shed rain water.
 - Hold up some pine resin, ask the children to smell it and explain what they think it is. Tell them that ants collect pine resin and deposit it throughout the nest to deter mites and other parasites.

Summarise

1. **How the nest functions as an indoor labyrinth for ants to keep themselves, the queen and the brood safe, warm and dry.**
 - Place the invertebrate, honeydew tokens, giant caterpillar and ping pong balls on the nest.
 - Explain that these items will be stored to feed baby ants (the brood), worker ants and the queen.
2. **The role of each ant and the vital part they play in the ant colony.**
 - a) **The queen** takes up residence and lays eggs (sometimes there is more than one queen)
 - b) **The workers (like Wendy)**



- Tend and fuss over the queen(s) and brood.
- Feed the larvae with re-constituted food.
- Ensure the eggs stays at a constant temperature by moving them deeper into the nest when the outside temperature is cool, or to the surface when it is warm.
- Clean the nest taking debris to the surface, or dead ants to the graveyard.
- Ensures the nest is adequately ventilated (opens or closes the windows).
- Defend the nest against predators/attackers.

c) The foragers

- Use long roads (highways) into the forest to collect honeydew and invertebrates for food.
- Collect plant material to build up the nest.
- Retrieve dead ants and bring them back to the 'graveyard' chamber within the nest.

d) The shining guest ant

- Ask the children to remove their hand bands to reveal the shining guest ant.
- This ant is an interloper! It is not a wood ant at all, and has come to share the home of the wood ants because they've built such a lovely clean, warm and dry environment.
- Shining guest ants are very choosy, and only live in five star accommodation!
- This ant is much smaller than the wood ants and is very shiny all over (you can see your reflection in it!).
- The wood ants are not at all concerned by this 'squatter' that has secretly moved in.

WOOD ANT GAME: Visiting a Wood Ants nest

Aim: To appreciate wood ant activities for real and close up!

Resources:

- A meter length of string
- A magnifying or spy glass
- A telescope (optional)

Activity plan:

Half the group watches the ant colony in the telescope or using the spy glass; follows an ant to see where it is going. The other half goes on an ant micro hike.

Ant Micro Hike

The leader explains: for something the size of a wood ant, the terrain must be very difficult to travel across, and carry food back over, while looking out for predators all the time. So they are going to take themselves down to the size of a wood ant and go on a hike through the terrain a wood ant would travel through.

How to play

An ant is selected and its route marked out with a piece of string, *OR* lie the string out at random.

Looking either side of the string, and not the string itself, use the magnifying glass to see what the ground looks like from an ants eye view. *Ask them to think about:*

- Obstacles the ant has to overcome?
- Where might they be going and why? (looking for food, nest materials...etc.)
- Which are the hardest bits to walk over?
- How long it might take as an ant to get there?
- What you would have to look out for (including people's big feet!!) and where might scary predators be lurking on your hike?
- Other things you might be watching out for such as intruders (neighbouring ant colonies can be aggressive to one another)?

Review, round up quiz questions

How much can you remember?

- What do wood ants collect from aphids?
- Name an animal that eats wood ants
- Name an animal that wood ants like to eat
- What is the name of the VIP guest that lives in wood ant nests? Name the different wood ants that live in the nest?

End with a conservation message *that emphasises our role and the importance of looking after wood ants homes. After all, no one would want their own homes vandalised or their windows put in would they? (So when you see a wood ant nest, don't disturb it by putting sticks and stones into the nest etc).*



