My Ant Fact File

Read the ant fact page, then fill in your fact file.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Draw an ant

Ant facts

Size: _____

Colony size: _____

Lifespan: _____

Diet: _____

Habitat: _____

Where: _____

Status: _____

Match the word to its meaning

1. colony ____	A. the young, wormlike stage of an insect after it hatches from an egg
2. pheromone ____	B. the ant that lays eggs for the colony
3. queen ____	C. a big change in body shape as an animal grows up
4. larva ____	D. a chemical smell an animal uses to send messages to others of its kind
5. metamorphosis ____	E. a group of animals of one kind that live and work together

The most amazing thing I learned about ants

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Answer Key

Ant Fact File

Ant facts

Scientific name:	Family Formicidae (14,000+ species)
Size:	About 1–50 mm (0.04–2 in) long
Colony size:	A few ants to millions
Lifespan:	Weeks to years; queens up to 29
Diet:	Nectar, seeds, insects, fungus
Habitat:	Soil, trees, deserts, rain forests
Where:	Almost everywhere but Antarctica
Status:	Varies; most species not assessed

Accept any answer that matches the fact page; sizes and lifespans are approximate.

Word match

1–E, 2–D, 3–B, 4–A, 5–C

Wow facts to share

- Scientists estimate there are about 20 quadrillion ants on Earth.
- Some worker ants can carry about 50 times their own body weight.
- Leafcutter ants grow their own food: a fungus garden.