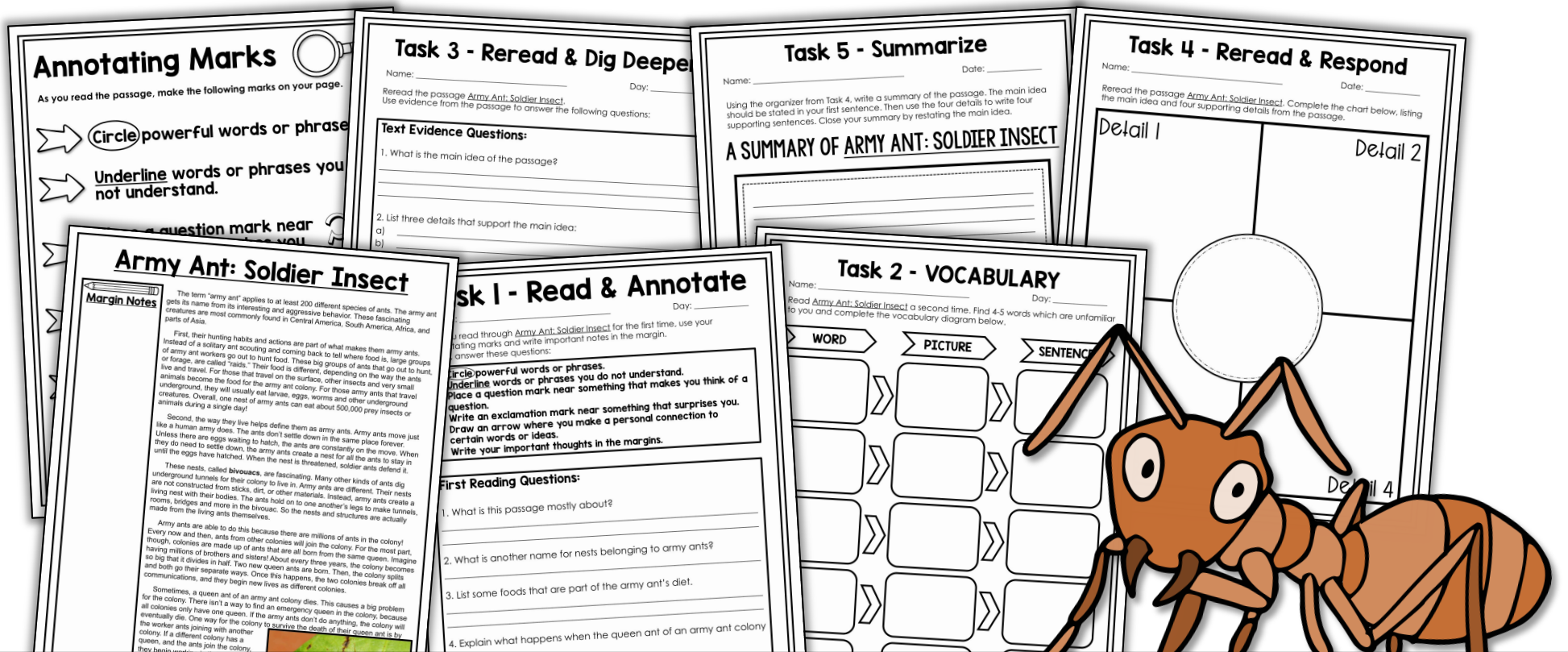


ARMY ANTS



DIFFERENTIATED CLOSE READING UNIT

2 Different Reading Levels

High-Interest Passage!

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.

The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

Army Ant: Soldier Insect

Margin Notes

The term "army ant" applies to at least 200 different kinds of ants. The army ant gets its name from its interesting behavior. These insects are most often found in Central America, South America, Africa, and parts of Asia.

First, their hunting habits are part of what makes them army ants. One ant looking to see where food is, large groups of army ants go out to hunt, or forage. These big groups of ants that go out to hunt, or forage, are called "raids." Their food is different, depending on the way the ants travel. For those that travel on the surface, other insects and very small animals become the food for the army ant colony. For those army ants that travel underground, they will usually eat larvae, eggs, worms and other underground creatures. Overall, one nest of army ants can eat about 500,000 prey insects or animals during a single day!

Second, army ants move just like a human army does. Instead of a solitary ant scouting and coming back to tell where food is, large groups of army ant workers go out to hunt food. These big groups of ants that go out to hunt, live and travel. For those that travel on the surface, other insects and very small animals become the food for the army ant colony. For those army ants that travel underground, they will usually eat larvae, eggs, worms and other underground creatures. Overall, one nest of army ants can eat about 500,000 prey insects or animals during a single day!

These nests, called **bivouacs**, are fascinating. Many other kinds of ants dig underground tunnels for their colony to live in. Army ants are different. Their nests are not constructed from sticks, dirt, or other materials. Instead, army ants create a living nest with their bodies. The ants hold on to one another's legs to make tunnels, rooms, bridges and more in the bivouac. So the nests and structures are actually made from the living ants themselves.

Army ants are able to do this because there are millions of ants in the colony! Every now and then, ants from other colonies will join the colony. For the most part, colonies are made up of ants that are all born from the same queen. Imagine having millions of brothers and sisters! About every three years, the colony becomes so big that it divides in half. Two new queen ants are born. Then, the colony splits and both go their separate ways. Once this happens, the two colonies break off all communications, and they begin new lives as different colonies.

Sometimes, a queen ant of an army ant colony dies. This causes a big problem for the colony. There isn't a way to find an emergency queen in the colony, because all colonies only have one queen. If the army ants don't do anything, the colony will eventually die. One way for the colony to survive the death of their queen ant is by the worker ants joining with another colony. If a different colony has a queen, and the ants join the colony, they begin working in their normal roles from the previous colony.

Army ants are all over the world. These insects are able to survive because of their unique abilities to move, live, and work together. They are truly fascinating creatures!

Army Ant: Soldier Insect

Margin Notes

The term "army ant" applies to at least 200 different species of ants. The army ant gets its name from its interesting and aggressive behavior. These fascinating creatures are most commonly found in Central America, South America, Africa, and parts of Asia.

First, their hunting habits and actions are part of what makes them army ants. Instead of a solitary ant scouting and coming back to tell where food is, large groups of army ant workers go out to hunt food. These big groups of ants that go out to hunt, live and travel. For those that travel on the surface, other insects and very small animals become the food for the army ant colony. For those army ants that travel underground, they will usually eat larvae, eggs, worms and other underground creatures. Overall, one nest of army ants can eat about 500,000 prey insects or animals during a single day!

Second, the way they live helps define them as army ants. Army ants move just like a human army does. The ants don't settle down in the same place forever. Unless there are eggs waiting to hatch, the ants are constantly on the move. When they do need to settle down, the army ants create a nest for all the ants to stay in until the eggs have hatched. When the nest is threatened, soldier ants defend it.

These nests, called **bivouacs**, are fascinating. Many other kinds of ants dig underground tunnels for their colony to live in. Army ants are different. Their nests are not constructed from sticks, dirt, or other materials. Instead, army ants create a living nest with their bodies. The ants hold on to one another's legs to make tunnels, rooms, bridges and more in the bivouac. So the nests and structures are actually made from the living ants themselves.

Army ants are able to do this because there are millions of ants in the colony! Every now and then, ants from other colonies will join the colony. For the most part, colonies are made up of ants that are all born from the same queen. Imagine having millions of brothers and sisters! About every three years, the colony becomes so big that it divides in half. Two new queen ants are born. Then, the colony splits and both go their separate ways. Once this happens, the two colonies break off all communications, and they begin new lives as different colonies.

Sometimes, a queen ant of an army ant colony dies. This causes a big problem for the colony. There isn't a way to find an emergency queen in the colony, because all colonies only have one queen. If the army ants don't do anything, the colony will eventually die. One way for the colony to survive the death of their queen ant is by the worker ants joining with another colony. If a different colony has a queen, and the ants join the colony, they begin working in their normal roles from the previous colony.

Army ants are all over the world. These insects are able to survive because of their unique abilities to move, live, and work together. They are truly fascinating creatures!



Reference Chart, Annotating Guide, Close Reading Directions

CLOSE READING STEPS

The following steps are a **suggested sequence** in which you could approach the contents of this packet. This approach will require 3 separate readings of the passage, each requiring students to dig deeper with each reading. Each task of the packet is to be completed in one day/lesson. With 5 total tasks per passage, each should take one week to complete.



1st Reading: Student reads the passage. As they read, they use their annotation symbols to identify unfamiliar words, questions they have, and parts of the passage that they agree with. Complete **Task 1: Read & Annotate**. This task also includes some basic recall questions.



2nd Reading: Teacher (or partner) rereads the passage a second time while students follow along. Have students complete **Task 2: Vocabulary**. This allows students to demonstrate their understanding of unfamiliar words from the passage, leading to a deeper comprehension of the text.



3rd Reading: Students reread the passage a third time, then responds in writing, citing text evidence. Students complete **Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper**. This page of questions requires students to cite text evidence when answering questions. Additionally, students complete **Task 4: Reread and Respond**. These final tasks use the text evidence to write a supported summary.

Annotating Marks

As you read the passage, make the following marks on the text:



Circle powerful words or phrases.



Underline words or phrases you do not understand.



Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.



Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.



Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.



Write your important thoughts in the margins.

Wow! The character showed a lot of courage here...

ABOUT THIS PACKET

The first part of this packet includes 5 reading passages and one week's worth of reading activities for each passage. The Close Reading passages included in this packet are each provided at 2 different reading levels, so that you may more easily differentiate your instruction. All the informational content of the 2 versions is the same, but the reading levels are different. All the question sheets are the same. This makes it easy for you to provide reading passages on each student's level, but use the same question and activity sheets for the entire class!

NOTE:

The **easier** passage has a ■ in the bottom left corner.
The **more difficult** passage has a ▲ in the bottom left corner.

Each passage with its activities is designed for a 5-day time frame, following this schedule:

Day	Title of Activity	Purpose
1	Task 1: Read and Annotate	Read passage for the first time. Use annotation symbols to annotate. Answer surface level questions.
2	Task 2: Vocabulary	Read passage for the second time. Students choose vocabulary words that are unknown to them and complete the vocabulary activity using those words.
3	Task 3: Reread and Dig Deeper	Read passage a third time. Students answer deeper level questions, citing text evidence to support answers.
4	Task 4: Reread and Respond	Students use the graphic organizer to identify the main idea and supporting details of the passage.
5	Task 5: Summarize	Using the completed graphic organizer from Day 4, students write a summary supporting details for the passage.

The reading levels for each differentiated passage are provided in this chart:

Passage Title	Symbol	Lexile Level
Mozart – Musical Genius	■	720
	▲	940
The History of Little League	■	780
	▲	1,000
The Sweet Story of Honey	■	740
	▲	950
George Washington Carver	■	800
	▲	1,030
The United States Constitution	■	750
	▲	930

5 Days of Close Reading Activities for GREATER Reading Comprehension

Task I - Read & Annotate

Name: _____ Day: _____

As you read through Army Ant: Soldier Insect for the first time, use your annotating marks and write important notes in the margin. Then, answer these questions:

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

First Reading Questions:

1. What is this passage mostly about?

2. What is another name for nests belonging to army ants?

3. List some foods that are part of the army ant's diet.

4. Explain what happens when the queen ant of an army ant colony dies.

Task 2 - VOCABULARY

Name: _____ Day: _____

Read Army Anti-Soldier Insert a second time. Find 4-5 words which are unfamiliar by diagram below.

PICTURE

• **SENTENCE**

Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

Name: _____ Day: _____

Task 4 - Reread & Respond

Name: _____ Date: _____

Task 5 - Summarize

Name: _____ Date: _____

a summary of the passage. The main idea is _____
e. Then use the four details to write four sentences that support the main idea.
Summary by restating the main idea.

Y ANT: SOLDIER INSECT

Detail 2

Detail 4

NO PREP!

Print and Go!

Answer Keys Provided

Task 1 - Read & Annotate

ARMY ANT: SOLDIER INSECT ANSWER KEY

- Circle powerful words or phrases.
- Underline words or phrases you do not understand.
- Place a question mark near something that makes you think of a question.
- Write an exclamation mark near something that surprises you.
- Draw an arrow where you make a personal connection to certain words or ideas.
- Write your important thoughts in the margins.

First Reading Questions: Some answers may vary.

1. What is this passage mostly about?

This passage is mostly about army ants and their abilities to move, live, and work together.

2. What is another name for nests belonging to army ants?

They are also called bivouacs.

3. List some foods that army ants eat.

Ants on the surface eat small animals. Underground ants eat larvae, eggs, worms, and other underground creatures.

4. Explain what happens when the queen ant of an army ant colony dies.

When the queen ant dies, the colony could die, since there is only one queen. Worker ants sometimes join with another colony in order to survive.

Task 3 - Reread & Dig Deeper

ARMY ANT: SOLDIER INSECT ANSWER KEY

Comprehension Questions: Some answers may vary.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

Strong, interesting insects who are able to survive because they can move, live, and work together, like soldiers.

2. What are some of the details that support the main idea?
Army ants hunt together. They don't settle down. They defend it.

3. What are some of the behaviors of army ants?
They go to see where food is, large groups of army ants. These are called raids.

4. What evidence from the text shows that bivouacs are made of sticks or dirt, but are made with their own bodies?
They use one another's legs to make tunnels, rooms, and

5. What evidence shows the importance of queen ants?
They are made up of ants that are all born from the same queen. They try to find an emergency queen if the queen dies.

