



Case Two: An Ounce of Prevention!

Grades 3-7

Level 5: Master Detective

Play "Who wants to be an IPM Super Sleuth"

Directions: Answer the following questions. Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided. When you're finished you can find the answer key at <http://www.ipminstitute.org/pdfquizzesanswers.pdf>.

1. If ants are a frequent problem: _____

- A. Keep the door shut
- B. Eat quickly
- C. Bring in some spiders
- D. Identify the ant
- E. Keep a hammer handy

HINT: There are many kinds of ants, how might it help to know which one you have?

2. If you find ants outside, you should: _____

- A. Step on as many as possible
- B. Bring some home
- C. Leave them alone
- D. Pour soapy water on them
- E. Put your foot over the nest

HINT: What harm are they doing outdoors?

3. Ants are "social" insects, which means: _____

- A. They love to party
- B. They make great friends
- C. They live in organized groups, or colonies
- D. They like to make long-distance phone calls
- E. They have wars between colonies

HINT: Did you know that bees and ants are in the same family?

Level 5 Quiz (continued)

4. Do ants have wings? _____

- A. No, never
- B. When ants are ready to mate, the colony may have "reproductives" with wings
- C. Only in fairy tales
- D. All ants have wings, some are invisible
- E. None of the above

HINT: Wings might come in handy when it's time to find a new nesting site.

5. How can you tell the difference between an ant and a termite? _____

- A. Termites need a covered route back to the soil, ants don't
- B. Termites have a thick waist, ants a thin waist
- C. The back wings on an ant are smaller than the front, termite wings are the same size
- D. Ants have a bend in their antennae, termite antennae are straight
- E. All of the above

HINT: There are lots of differences.

6. Ants are: _____

- A. The same all over the world
- B. Highly educated
- C. Likely to be of different kinds in different parts of the U.S. or the world
- D. Determined to rule the world
- E. All of the above

HINT: All ants don't thrive in the same kinds of weather or geography.

7. How can you identify ants? _____

- A. By the way they behave
- B. By the kind of nest they make
- C. By their looks and smell
- D. By if they sting or bite, or not
- E. All of the above

HINT: How many ways are ants different?

Level 5 Quiz (continued)

8. The Acrobat ant is known for: _____

- A. Singing sweet songs
- B. Biting circus clowns and trapeze artists
- C. Living in restaurants
- D. Raising its heart-shaped abdomen (body segment furthest from the head) over its head
- E. Chasing cars

HINT: Why do you think it's called the Acrobat ant?

9. You might recognize a ghost ant, the most common ant in South Florida, by: _____

- A. Finding it hiding in bed sheets
- B. Its white legs and gaster (fat part of the abdomen)
- C. The scary noise it makes
- D. Hearing African drumming sounds
- E. All of the above

HINT: The ghost ant is originally from Africa, but it doesn't make any noise.

10. How can you tell the difference between an Argentine and a pharaoh ant? _____

- A. The Argentine ant is light to dark brown, the pharaoh ant is red and smaller
- B. The Argentine ant speaks Spanish
- C. The waist, or thin part of its body has one node (or bump), a pharaoh ant has two nodes
- D. A and B
- E. A and C

HINT: Come on now, do you really think an ant can speak Spanish?

11. What's important to reduce ant problems? _____

- A. Seal cracks and crevices with caulk; store trash in a container with a tight lid
- B. Store food in glass or metal containers with tight lids, or refrigerate
- C. Create a "moat" around food sources (e.g., pet food dishes) by setting in a pan of soapy water
- D. Clean recyclables, floors, counters, tables and dishes with soapy water right after using
- E. All of the above

HINT: How can you break the food-water-hiding place triangle for ants?

Level 5 Quiz (continued)

12. The pavement ant is known for: _____

- A. Digging up sidewalks
- B. Crossing the road
- C. Paving its trails
- D. Nesting under cement
- E. All of the above

HINT: Have you ever seen ant nests in cracks in the sidewalk?

13. Where did the odorous ant get its name from? _____

- A. Frequent flatulence
- B. A rotten coconut smell when squished
- C. Its keen sense of smell
- D. A smelly entomologist
- E. The smell it makes when disturbed

HINT: It's a good thing this ant doesn't sting or bite.

14. How did the thief ant earn its name? _____

- A. It will steal young queens from other colonies
- B. It will steal the food right off your fork
- C. It likes to make nests in banks and jails
- D. It wears a bandana
- E. It steals food from refrigerators

HINT: Someone must have watched thief ants very closely to figure this one out.

15. How can you tell if an ant will bite or sting? _____

- A. Pick it up and see what happens
- B. Identify it accurately and look up the behavior of that ant in a book or on line
- C. There is no way to tell
- D. Ask someone else to pick it up
- E. All of the above

HINT: You don't really want to find out the hard way do you?

Level 5 Quiz (continued)

16. Ants within a colony cooperate in interesting ways including: _____

- A. Specialized 'soldiers' armed with enlarged mouthparts
- B. Farmer ants tending underground fields of fungus for food
- C. Herder ants tending aphids on plants, 'milking' them for their 'honeydew' excrement
- D. Queens may lay extra eggs for ant workers to use as food
- E. All of the above

HINT: It would take pages to list all the interesting arrangements found in ant colonies!