

Have you ever talked with ants? Of course not! Ants cannot talk, at least not the way we do. But ants do send messages to each other. They use movements, make sounds, and follow chemical (ke-mi-kl) trails.

Movements

Some ants wiggle their antennae to send messages. When two ants meet, they may touch each other's antennae. This can help an ant tell if the other ant is an enemy.

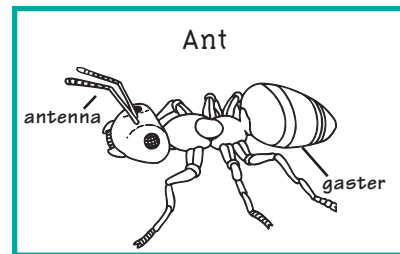
Sounds

Ants can use sound to send messages. Ants that live in nests inside plants may drum on their homes. To send a message, an ant taps its gaster on the nest wall. Each tap sends waves into the nest. The waves can tell ants about food. The waves can warn other ants about danger.

Some ants even squeak or buzz. The sounds may tell other ants that a nest has caved in. The sounds may tell ants about food or a new nest.

Chemical Trails

Ants also put down chemical trails that send messages. Ants use many kinds of chemicals. Each one has a strong taste or smell that sends a message. Some tell where to find food. Other chemicals warn ants about danger.



Write your answers on your paper.

1. What body parts do ants touch to send messages?
2. What body part does an ant tap against a nest wall?
3. Why might an ant squeak or buzz?
4. What are two kinds of messages chemical trails send to other ants?
5. What is the name of the text feature shown with this passage?
A. map
B. diagram
C. caption
6. What are the three subtitles in this passage?