

Ant Colony 蟻群的世界

Life Cycle

There are very few if any living creatures that can compete with the work ethics of ants. Taking into consideration their size and life-span, ants are relentless in their pursuit to ensure the survival of the colony. During the first week of the project, each class had an opportunity to investigate the life cycle of an ant. The purpose of this activity was to ensure students formed an understanding of the short life-span of an ant as well as all the dangers they face from the outside world.

Living with a purpose

During the planning phase, the students focused on how they would establish a colony for ants as well as what kind of ants they were going to find. They studied several different ant nest designs from various parts of the world and predicted which one of the more than 16,000 species they might find when walking outside. Once we all agreed on what the local specie of ant could be, we set about planning the ant farm by gathering materials and creating the perfect nest.

Establishing a Colony

It could take ants as little as three days to build a suitable network of underground tunnels up to 2m long. During this time, they frantically engineered areas for food, eggs, larva and the queen. Throughout the create stage, we gathered ants and placed them into the environment created for them. During our observations of the ants, we took time to learn about the different tasks that each ant has to perform. It didn't take the ants long to get to work on their new home. The final task was to think about ways to improve the nest. We all agreed it needed to be much bigger to host a whole colony.

生命週期

若提及螞蟻的體型及壽命，能與其職業道德相抗衡的生物簡直是屈指可數。在進行此專題的第一週，學生們研究螞蟻的生命週期，並了解牠們短暫的壽命及外在的危險。

為意義而生

在計畫過程中，學生們專注於要為哪種螞蟻建立群落。學生們研究來自世界各地不同的螞蟻設計，並推測可能會發現 16,000 多種螞蟻中的哪一種。一旦學生們對當地的螞蟻種類達成共識，便開始著手規劃螞蟻養殖場，收集資料並建造完美的螞蟻巢。

發展蟻群

螞蟻只需三天就可以建造長達兩公尺的地下隧道。在此期間，螞蟻們瘋狂地為食物、卵、幼蟲和蟻后建造區域。在創造階段，學生們收集螞蟻並放入人為的環境中。學生們觀察螞蟻，並花時間了解每隻螞蟻的工作。不久後，螞蟻便開始建起新家。最後一個任務是思考改善螞蟻巢的辦法，學生都認為需要更大的面積才能容納一個完整的蟻群。

1

ASK + IMAGINE
提問 + 創思

2

Ants are fascinating creatures; they can perform amazing feats of engineering during their short life span.

螞蟻是一種迷人的生物，牠們能在短暫的生命週期內完成驚人的工程壯舉。



3

PLAN
計畫

4

As a group we planned the best way to create a safe living environment for the ants.
我們在小組中為螞蟻規劃安全的居住環境。



4

CREATE
創造

5

The ants were carefully placed into small containers, before populating the colony. 我們將螞蟻小心翼翼地放入小容器，讓螞蟻在蟻群中繁殖。



5

IMPROVE
改進

6

We discussed different ways to make the ant colony better and more comfortable for the ants.
我們討論讓蟻窩變得更好且更舒適的方法。

