

THE TINY TEACHER

Lesson explanation, Part 1

Ants are the commonest and tiniest creature.

We all have seen them around since our childhood. But we haven't paid much attention to them. Have we paid close attention to them, we would have learnt many things from this tiny creature. These are the tiniest creature but very intelligent, hardworking, disciplined and dutiful.

They use their feelers or antennae to communicate with each other. There are many kinds of ants. But the commonest are the black and red ones. They live in their comfortable homes called "nests" or "anthills".

Each has hundreds of rooms and passages. In some of these rooms the queen ant lay eggs. Others are for nurseries or for the grubs. Workers have their reserved quarters and almost remains busy in searching food. Some rooms serve as storehouse for food. Soldiers have separate barracks to live in. No worker has ever lived in a soldier's house or has ever gone out to search food. The ants live in great harmony. No soldier, worker or cleaner has ever harmed any grub.

What are grubs and how it becomes ant?

Grubs are the young form of an insect, that looks like a small fat worm. Grubs come out from the eggs and soldiers guard them. Worker

ants feed them and clean them. Two or three weeks later grubs become cocoons and lie without food or activity for three more weeks. Then the cocoons break and perfect ants appear.