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Age 9

The Mighty Ants

Our ecosystem is always working together but this story will introduce you to an animal that is much smaller. This animal uses teamwork to solve its problems. This animal is the tiny ant, and every ant has a big impact on the colony.

Our story begins with a red ant who goes by the name of Anne. When Anne was a child, she stayed with her mom the queen ant who taught her how to be a great queen ant. When Anne was a full-grown ant, she set off to build an ant hill. While she was admiring her work, thousands of red ants who had been kicked out of their own hills offered to help her. They became part of the colony. The smallest ants, called worker ants, collected food for them all. Some of the larger soldier ants with mandibles came with them to protect the worker ants, while other soldier ants stayed back to protect Anne the queen ant and her children while she was laying the eggs.

One day an invading colony of leaf-cutter ants searching for food for their own colony came and started to ambush the small worker ants who were collecting food for the colony which had grown in millions. The red ants released a chemical that all the red ants in the hill could smell. Soldier ants and worker ants rushed out to help each other and fight off the invading leafcutters. As they fought, some red ants rushed the queen and her children to the lowest chambers where they would be safe. They stayed there for days as the fight went on. In the end, the leaf-cutter ants were outnumbered and were forced to go back to where they came from.

As the leaf-cutter ants went back to their queen with no food, Queen Anne, her helpers, and her children reemerged from the ant hill. Queen Anne and her colony had a party to celebrate their team effort and success. The leaf-cutter ants were never seen again.

If there were no workers to collect the food to feed the colony, there would be no soldiers to protect the colony. If there was no one to protect the colony there wouldn't be a queen. If there wasn't a queen, there wouldn't be a colony. Therefore, ants must use teamwork to thrive, survive, and stay alive.