

Ants are in the same order as bees and wasps



Ants have distinctive elbowed antennae & thin waist



An ant starts life as an egg



Family name: *Formicidae*



They are social animals and live in colonies



Ants experience complete metamorphosis



10,000+ species worldwide



They are generally omnivores



Ant queens can live up to 30 years, worker ants 1-3 years



Nearly 1,000 species in N. America



Ants defend and attack by biting, stinging & shooting acid



Ants breathe through holes in their sides - spiracles



They live in almost all ecosystems



Ants communicate through pheromones, sounds & touch



There is a great deal of diversity and complexity in the ant world

More information and activities

Facts about ants

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/group/ants/>

Parts of an ant

<https://tinyurl.com/ybywuvvo>

How to identify ants

<http://www.schoolofants.org/content/common-urban-ants-key>

Identify your spirit ant - which ant are you?

<https://yourspiritant.com/ant-gallery/>

Citizen Science:

<http://www.schoolofants.org/>

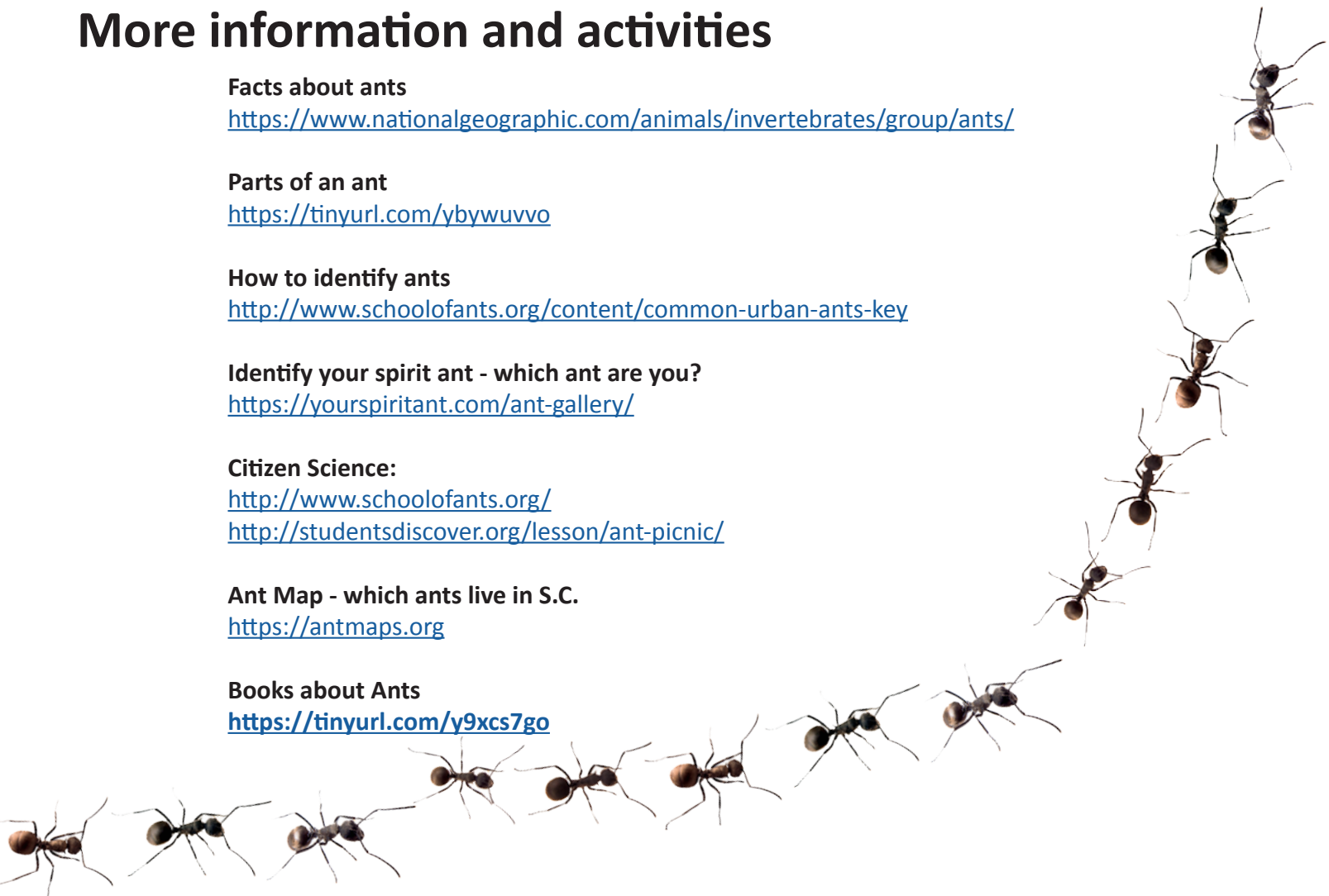
<http://studentsdiscover.org/lesson/ant-picnic/>

Ant Map - which ants live in S.C.

<https://antmaps.org>

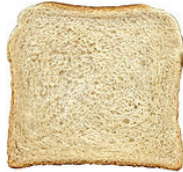
Books about Ants

<https://tinyurl.com/y9xcs7go>



Ant Experiments

Ant Picnic Menu



Invite ants to your picnic and do a scientific experiment!

- 1) Make some food choices - there are some options on the Ant Picnic Menu, but you might have other food at your picnic.
- 2) Find some ants - make sure they are not fire ants! Place some of your chosen food near them.
- 3) Which foods do you think they will like? This is your hypothesis.
- 4) Observe - which foods do they like best? How do the ants react to the food? What do they do with the food? Can you see the ants communicating? What other questions can you ask?
- 5) Record - write down or draw what you see.

Make a temporary ant observatory

What you need:

Large wide-mouth jar (e.g. pickle jar)
Smaller jar (e.g. jam jar)
Loose, sandy soil
small cup
honey or jam

Method:

Place the smaller jar upside-down inside the larger one.
Spoon soil in the space between the 2 jars

Find ants:

Place a small amount of honey or jam in the cup
Place the cup on its side
Wait for ants to feed
Add 15 - 20 ants to the soil
Secure the lid

Watch your ants for a day or two then release them in their original location

