

Name _____

overcome
prehistoricterritory
nutrientsinvestigates
communicationsolitary
astronomer

Read each sentence and decide whether it is true or false. If it is true, write True. If it is false, write False, and explain why.

1. An ant *investigates* new discoveries of food with its antennae.

2. An *astronomer* is a scientist who studies ants.

3. Ants *overcome* problems by working alone.

4. Ants guard the *territory* in which they live.

5. Ants are not *prehistoric* creatures because they've been around for only about 500 years.

6. Some insects are *solitary*, which means they like living in groups.

7. Like ants, we get our *nutrients* from the foods we eat.

8. Ants use *communication* to tell each other where to find food.

Name _____

Writers use **description** to give their readers interesting facts and details about a topic. Often, description includes information that appeals to the readers' five senses.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Life Cycle of the Ant

Egg

Ants begin life as tiny white or yellowish eggs. The eggs are oval in shape and less than 1/16th of an inch long. They hatch in two to six weeks.

Larva

Larvae look like small white worms. They don't have legs, and they can't move much. They grow for several weeks to several months. Larvae shed their skin over and over as they grow.

Pupa

During this stage, the ants change into their adult bodies. In the end, they look like white ants. Their legs and antennae are snug against their bodies. After this stage, they are full-grown.

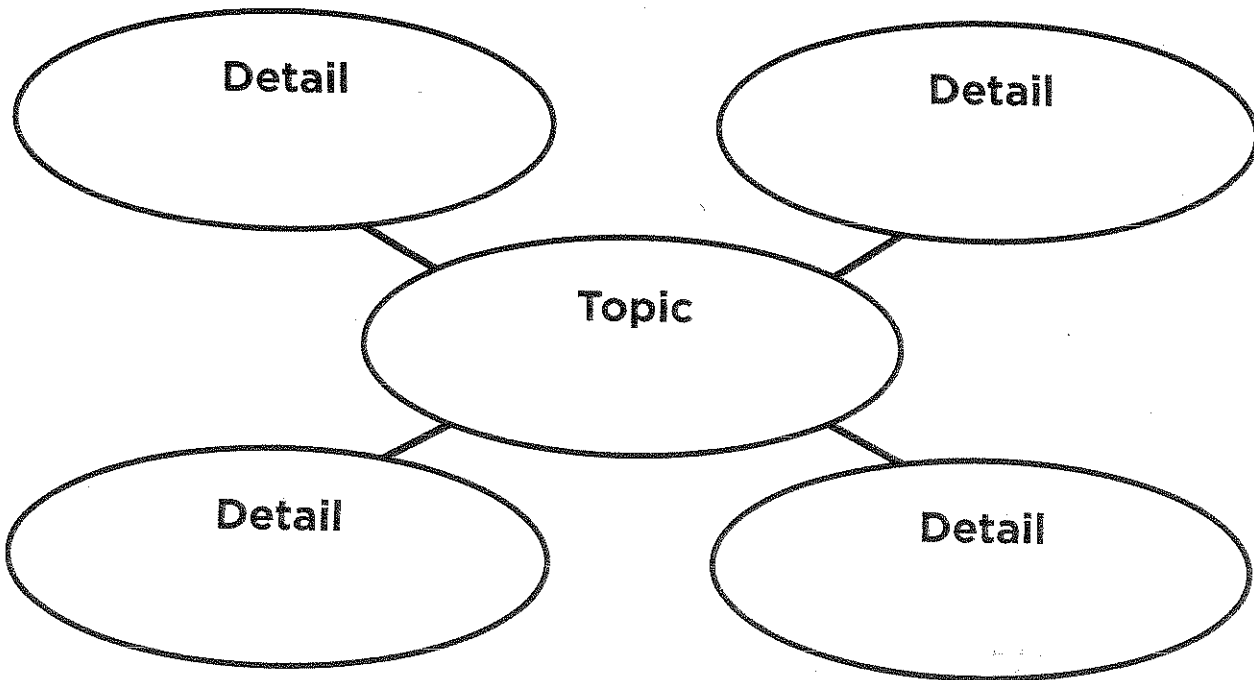
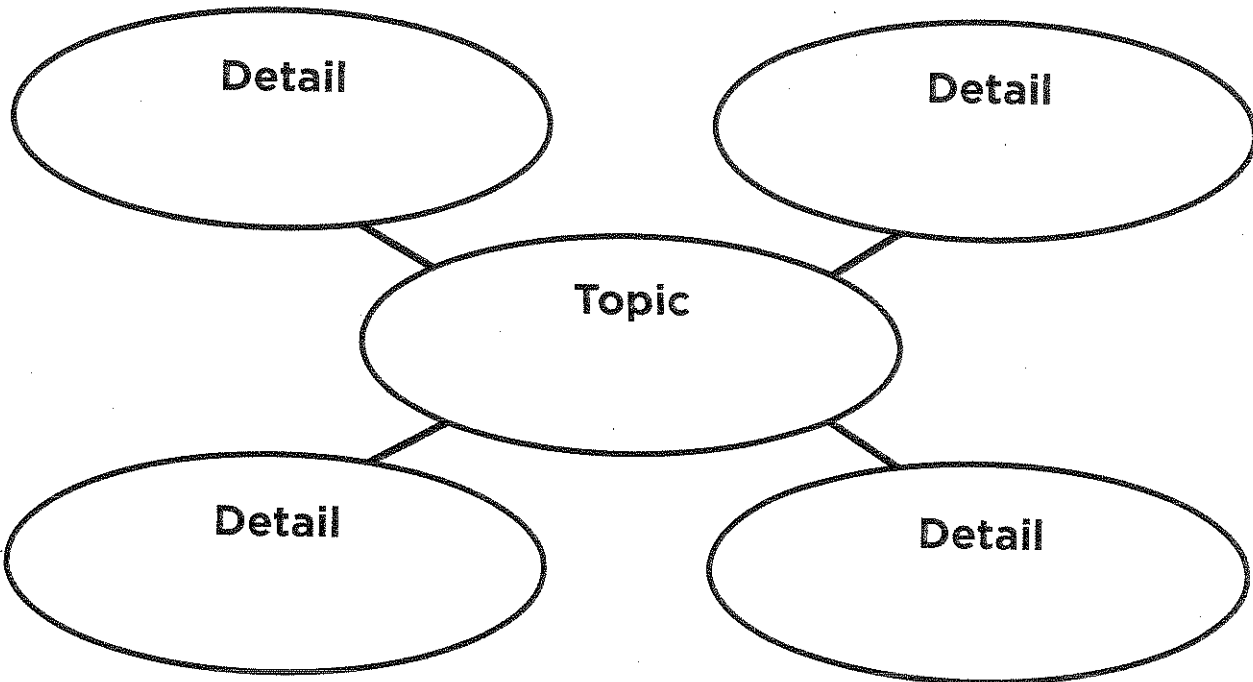
1. Give two details from the passage that relate to the readers' sense of sight. _____
- _____

2. Why does the author mention the detail that the eggs are 1/16 of an inch long? _____
- _____



Name _____

As you read *The Life and Times of the Ant*, fill in the Description Web.



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How does completing the Description Web help you analyze the text structure of *The Life and Times of the Ant*?



Name _____

As I read, I will pay attention to the pronunciation of vocabulary words.

Did you know that only the male cricket sings? A
 10 male cricket sings to attract a female cricket. This cricket
 20 **communication** is made when the male cricket scrapes
 28 its front wings together. Each wing has a sharp edge and
 39 a bumpy part like a file. First, the cricket lifts its wings.
 51 Then, it rubs the sharp edge of one wing against the file
 63 of the other. It is almost as if it is playing a violin. Each
 77 type of cricket has a different song.
 84 Crickets don't have very good eyesight. They depend
 92 on their hearing. But their ears aren't on their heads.
 102 Crickets have ears on their front legs. Each ear is a small
 114 hole with a thin covering.
 119 A long time ago, house crickets could be found near
 129 warm kitchen stoves. The crickets fed on crumbs that had
 139 fallen from the stove. They would also sit near the warm
 150 fireplace that heated the home. People often felt comforted
 159 by listening to the chirping crickets on cold nights. Today
 169 crickets inside homes must find a warm place to hide. 179

Comprehension Check

1. Describe crickets' ears. **Description**
2. Compare how crickets could live in houses in the past and today. **Compare and Contrast**

	Words Read	—	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		—		=	
Second Read		—		=	



Name _____

A **fable** is a short story that teaches a lesson, or **moral**. Fables often have animal characters that behave like people. The **plot** of a fable or other story is what happens in the story.

Read each fable and answer the questions.

A fire ant fell into a river and started to panic. A dove saw this happen, plucked a leaf from a tree, and dropped it near the ant. The ant climbed on the leaf and got safely to shore. "Thank you," said the ant. "I wish I could repay you for your help." The dove waved her wing and flew away. Soon after, a hunter came by and aimed at the dove. The ant ran up to the hunter and stung him on the foot. The hunter missed his target.

1. Why do you think the ant helps the dove?

2. What might the moral of this fable be?

A crow was very thirsty. He found a pitcher and tried to drink from it but couldn't reach the water. Then he started dropping pebbles into the pitcher. With each pebble the water rose higher until, at last, it rose high enough for him to drink.

3. What is the most important event in the story?

4. What do you think the moral of this story is?



Name _____

Many English words came from other languages. Some words came from Greek, the language of Greece. Knowing the meaning of Greek roots can help you understand other words that use the same root.

Column 1*dino-* = terrifying*astro-* = star*tele-* = far*bio-* = life**Column 2***-logy* = the study of*-scope* = see*-saur* = lizard*-naut* = sailor

Match a Greek root from Column 1 with one from Column 2 to get the English word described. Then use the word in a sentence.

1. star sailor _____

2. see far _____

3. terrifying lizard _____

4. the study of life _____



Name _____

Three different letter pairs can stand for the /ûr/ sound.

er as in *alert* *ir* as in *thirsty* *ur* as in *furnace*

Notice that /ûr/ does not occur in unstressed syllables. When *er* appears in an unstressed syllable (as in *mother*), the sound is represented with /ər/.

whirling
scurry

fertilizer
returns

dirty
perfect

nurture
surface

Complete each sentence with a word from the list. Circle the stressed syllable in each word.

1. Ants come to the _____ to look for food.
2. They _____ along the ground, leaving scent trails.
3. The leaves and petals they bring back are used as _____.
4. The queen ant flies into a cloud of _____ male ants.
5. The queen ant _____ to dig a hole and begin laying her eggs.
6. Nurse ants feed and _____ the larvae.
7. Digging holes is hard, _____ work, but that doesn't seem to bother the ants.
8. Their mandibles are _____ for scooping the soil to make new tunnels.

