

Ant Adventure!

Materials Needed:

- Magnifying glass
- Pictures or videos of ants (or a safe ant farm/clear container with ants if available)
- Construction paper (brown, black, red)
- Safety scissors (adult use or supervised)
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers
- Playdough (optional)
- Book about ants (optional)

Introduction (5 minutes):

"Have you ever seen tiny little creatures marching in a line outside? Those might be ants! Ants are super interesting little animals. Today, we're going on an Ant Adventure to learn all about them! What do you already know about ants?"

Activity 1: Ant Observation (10 minutes):

"Let's look closely at some ants!" (Use real ants safely contained, pictures, or video). "We can use our magnifying glass to see them bigger. Wow! Look closely. Can you see its head? It has little feelers on its head called antennae - they help the ant smell and touch. Can you see its body? Ants have three main body parts, but sometimes they look like just two or three sections. And how many legs does an ant have? Let's count together... 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6! Ants have six legs. That makes them insects!"

Activity 2: Ant Homes - Colonies! (10 minutes):

"Where do ants live? They don't live alone! Ants live together in big families called colonies. Many ants build their homes underground by digging tunnels in the dirt. That's part of Earth Science - how animals use the earth! Can you pretend to dig tunnels like an ant?" (Optional: Use brown playdough to build pretend ant tunnels or draw an ant hill with tunnels on paper). "Lots and lots of ants live and work together in their colony."

Activity 3: Make an Ant Craft (15 minutes):

"Let's make our own ants! We can use construction paper or playdough." (Guide the child). "First, let's make the body parts. We need a head, a middle part (thorax), and an end part (abdomen). We can glue three small circles together, or make three playdough balls and stick them in a line. Now, what else do ants need? Antennae! Let's add two antennae to the head. And how many legs? Six! Let's add six legs to the middle part of the body." (Help attach paper strips or small playdough rolls as legs).

Wrap-up (5 minutes):

"Look at the amazing ant you made! What did we learn about ants today? They are tiny insects, they have six legs and antennae, and they live together in colonies underground! Ants are busy little Earth explorers!" (Optional: Read an ant book or sing "The Ants Go Marching").