

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

104 INTERSTITIAL: MS MOLE STORY TIME: ANT GARDENS

Written by

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Follows "The House that Ants Built." This dives deeper into how ants use the rooms in their nest.

Curriculum: The kids learn that ant nets are big and that leaf-cutting ants feed leaves to their fungus garden.

Learning Goals:

LS4. Begin to understand that animals and plants depend on other living things and nonliving things in the environment to meet some of their needs. [Ant use leaves to grow their fungus food]

ND3. (RTL Crosscutting concept 'Structure and Function') Understand that structures and materials in the natural world can be used or can inspire the engineering of structures with similar function in the designed world. [Ants have gardens just like we do.]

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1. EXT SCHOOL GARDEN -- DAY

Today's story time takes place outside in the school garden.
MS. MOLE walks into frame.

1 MS. MOLE 1
Who's ready to hear a garden story?

There are several kids sitting in the garden, facing Ms. Mole.

2 ALL KIDS 2
Me!/I'm ready!/Yeah!

3 MS. MOLE 3
Oh, my, aren't you all ANT-sy to hear it!

Ms. Mole brings out her Nature Book.

4 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 4
Well, today's story is about one
KIND of ant called a LEAF-CUTTER
ANT.

Ms. Mole opens the book to a page that shows a leaf cutter ant walking along an anthill tunnel.

5 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 5
Leaf cutter ants make some of the
biggest anthills in the world!

The storybook graphic zooms out to reveal a huge anthill about 30 meters wide, using a generic animal icon and two regular houses for scale.

6 KIDS 6
Whooooaaa.../Ooohhhh/Wow!

7 ARI 7
That anthill looks bigger than two houses!

8 ELINOR 8
Ms. Mole, why is that ant called the "leaf-cutter ant"?

9 MS. MOLE 9
Ah! That's a very import-ANT question, Elinor!

Ms. Mole flips the page and we see an ant on a big green leaf.

10 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 10
They're called "leaf-cutters"
because they use their chompers to
cut pieces of leaves!

The ant chomps away like a buzzsaw with its mandibles,
cutting away a big piece of the leaf.

11 OLIVE 11
Why does the ant cut the leaf, Ms.
Mole?

12 ARI 12
I bet they use it to make a salad!
(rubbing his stomach and smacking
his lips) I love salads!

Ms. Mole flips the page to show an ant at a table about to
eat a leafy green salad.

13 MS. MOLE 13
They do eat salads, Ari, but
they're not leaf salads!

The leafy salad is taken away from the ant, and the ant looks
confused.

14 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 14
Leaf cutter ants like to eat
MUSHROOM salads!

The salad is replaced with a plate of mushrooms.

The page flips and the graphic shows ants taking the pieces
of leaves, chewing them up and making a fungus garden.

15 MS. MOLE (CONT'D) 15
They take the pieces of leaves and
chew them up to grow a FUNGUS
garden. A fungus is like a
mushroom.

The book shows ants harvesting the fungi and feeding it to
their young.

16 ARI 16
I always knew eating mushrooms was
FUN-gus.

17 MS. MOLE 17
<LAUGHS> That it is, Ari. So you
see, kids, some ants grow their own
food in gardens, just like we do!

With that, we go back to the garden scene.

18

KIDS

18

Ooohh/Cool.../Whoa...

Suddenly, we see that Ms. Mole is moving sideways. ZOOM OUT to reveal she's being carried away by ants.

19

MS. MOLE

19

Oh! Well! I guess it's time to go gardening!

The ants walk her off screen and we IRIS OUT to...

END.