

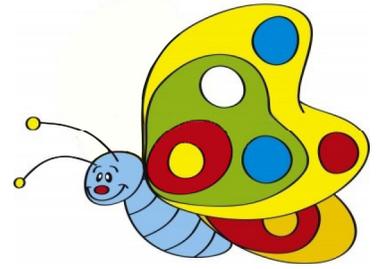
# Reading Comprehension



Name.....

**Section 1**

Paddy dreamed of flying fast and high through the sky. Unfortunately, the other young butterflies made fun of him because he only had wings on one side. It took Paddy a long time to get anywhere because he could only fly in circles, and so he always came in last in the treasure-hunt races.



One day Paddy's mum saw him sitting alone under a large flower. She said, "Why aren't you out playing with your friends? It's such a beautiful day."

Paddy replied, "Oh, Mum, the other kids don't want to play with me because I can't keep up with them."

She looked at her son and smiled. "Do you know anyone who doesn't make fun of you?"

"Oh yes. There's my friend Andy. He's an ant. He walks with a limp, so none of the other ants will play with him."

Paddy's mum said, "Why don't you go and find Andy and see if he wants to play with you today?"

Paddy flew in lots of small circles until he reached his friend's anthill home.

"Hey Andy," Paddy yelled out. "Do you want to play down by the willow pond?"

Andy looked at his friend with sad eyes and said, "No. That's way too far for me to walk with my bad leg."

Paddy had a great idea. "Hey, you don't weigh very much. How about I give you a ride on my back. Just hop on and hold on tight."

It was a funny sight to see an ant with a crooked leg sitting on the back of a butterfly that could only fly in circles.

"Stop, Paddy, stop!" yelled the little ant. "You have to land right now. I'm getting dizzy. I'm afraid I'll fall off your back."

Paddy made a looping emergency landing onto a small grass patch.

“I’m sorry, Andy. I’m so used to flying in circles, I never get dizzy.”

“I’ll be okay,” the little ant said. “I just need to sit here for a few minutes.”



Paddy said, “I have an idea how we can get down to the willow pond. You can help me fly in a straight line, just like the other butterflies.”

The ant got excited. “If we fly in a straight line, I won’t get airsick.”

“Yeah, and the others kids won’t make fun of us anymore.”

Andy began rubbing his bad leg, trying to imagine how he could help his friend fly in a straight line.

“Wait right here,” Paddy said. “I saw something that will help us fly straight.”

Paddy flew off into the tall grass and returned with a bird’s tail-feather and a piece of string. He tied the feather onto Andy’s good front leg using the string.

The ant jumped onto Paddy’s back and shouted, “Yippee! Let’s head for the pond.”

Paddy lifted off in his normal circular pattern as Andy waved his feather wing up and down in the air. The movement was just enough to allow him to fly in a straight line for the first time in his life.

Paddy shouted, “Wow, this is so cool. Look how fast we are flying and I’m not half as tired as usual.”

Paddy began making a slow left turn over the willow pond where a rabble of butterflies were playing.

“Hey, let’s buzz them,” Andy yelled. “Won’t they be surprised?”

“Okay,” said Paddy. “Hold on tight. One ant-assisted ‘buzz’ coming up.”

The flying duo swooped down over the water's surface, then did two large loop-de-loops followed by an upside-down and backwards half-roll.

The butterflies stopped playing. With their tiny mouths open, they watched in amazement.

“Yippee,” cried Andy. “That was fun. I didn’t know we could do that.”

“Neither did I,” said Paddy. “Just think of all the brilliant things we can do if we practice hard.”

Paddy and Andy worked on their flying tricks every day, and when they grew up, they joined an Animal Circus. Soon, they became the finest butterfly-and-ant acrobatic team in the world. Sometimes Paddy would fly in circles just for fun to let Andy rest. But best of all, no one ever laughed at them ever again.

*The End*

## Reading Answers (section 1)

### Multiple Choice Section

In this section you will be asked to choose the correct answer from a choice of four.

Circle the answer that you think is correct.

**Answer these questions about *Flying in Circles*.** The first one has been done for you.

1. This story is about a butterfly called

Andy

Paddy

Paul

Adrien

2. Paddy dreamed of

fluttering  
through the  
woods

flying slowly  
through the  
garden

flying fast and  
high through the  
sky

being the fastest  
butterfly in the  
world

3. The other young butterflies made fun of Paddy because

he couldn't fly

he couldn't swim

he only had  
wings on one  
side

he had too  
many wings

4. Paddy always came last in

egg and spoon  
races

treasure-hunt  
races

skipping races

flying races

5. Paddy's friend Andy is an

octopus

ant

alligator

elephant

## **Written Answers Section**

In this section you will need to write one or more sentences to answer the questions.

6. Why wouldn't the other ants play with Andy?

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7. Why did Andy tell Paddy to stop flying?

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8. Why do you think Alice stopped coming into the garden?

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9. What did Paddy do with the bird's tail-feather and the string?

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10. Who was playing at the willow pond?

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11. What did Paddy and Andy do to surprise the butterflies?

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12. What do you think the word “duo” means?

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13. What did Paddy and Andy do when they grew up?

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***You have finished section 1. Now move on to section 2.***

# Butterfly Facts

## Section 2

**Area:** All continents except Antarctica.



**Habitat:** Everything from tropical forests to grasslands to tundra.

**Food:** Caterpillars eat leaves; butterflies sip nectar, sap and juice from fruit.

**Size:** From less than 1 inch to about 11 inches across, depending on the species.

**Babies:** Caterpillars shed their skin as they grow, then form a chrysalis and change into a butterfly.

DID YOU KNOW?

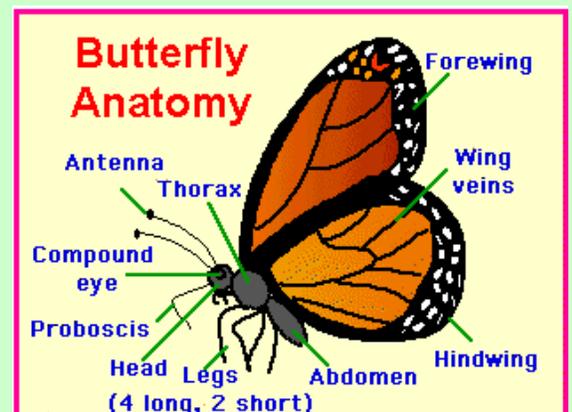
The fastest butterflies are the skippers, which can fly at 37 miles per hour, but most butterflies travel at 5 to 12 miles per hour.

## Amazing Changes!

One of the most incredible things about butterflies is the way they change from crawling caterpillars into winged beauties. There are four steps in becoming a butterfly: egg, caterpillar, **pupa**, and butterfly. This process is called **metamorphosis**, which comes from the Latin words for “changing shape.”

An adult female lays her eggs on a **plant**. When the egg hatches, a small caterpillar crawls out and eats the eggshell, then it begins eating the plant. Caterpillars are basically munching machines. This is the stage when most of the eating and growing happens. The caterpillar’s insides grow, but not its outside—when it gets too big for its skin, the covering splits and is shed. A new **exoskeleton** lies underneath. A caterpillar sheds its skin 5 times, then becomes a **pupa**.

The last time the caterpillar sheds, a hard casing called a **chrysalis** forms around its body. Inside the **chrysalis**, big changes are happening. The **pupa** is growing six legs, a proboscis, antennae and wings. After 10 to 15 days, the chrysalis breaks open and a butterfly comes out. At first its wings are wet and crinkled, but after about an hour, they are straight, dry and strong enough for the butterfly to flutter away.



## Reading Answers (section 2)

Answer these questions about *Butterfly Facts*.

1. The fastest butterflies are

runners

skippers

dancers

creepers

2. What do caterpillars do with their skin as they grow?

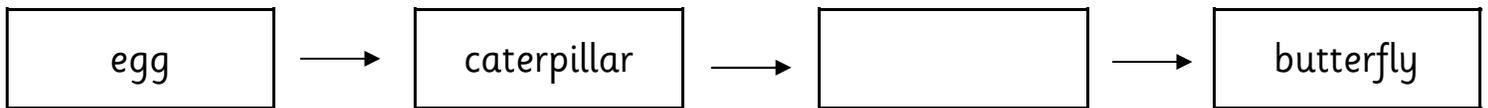
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3. How fast can “skipper” butterflies fly?

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4. There are four steps to a caterpillar becoming a butterfly.

Fill in the missing word in this sequence.



5. How many times does a caterpillar shed its skin before it becomes a pupa?

7

3

5

10

6. What is the name of the hard casing that forms around a butterfly's body?

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***You have finished section 2. Now move on to section 3.***

## Section 3

### Amazing Ants

Ants have been able to survive on earth for more than 100 million years and with over 20,000 different species of ants, they can be found anywhere in the world.



### Social Insects

Although ants can be annoying when they get into your home or when you're having a picnic, ants do help the environment. They are social insects, which means they live in large **colonies** or groups. Ant colonies can consist of millions of ants!

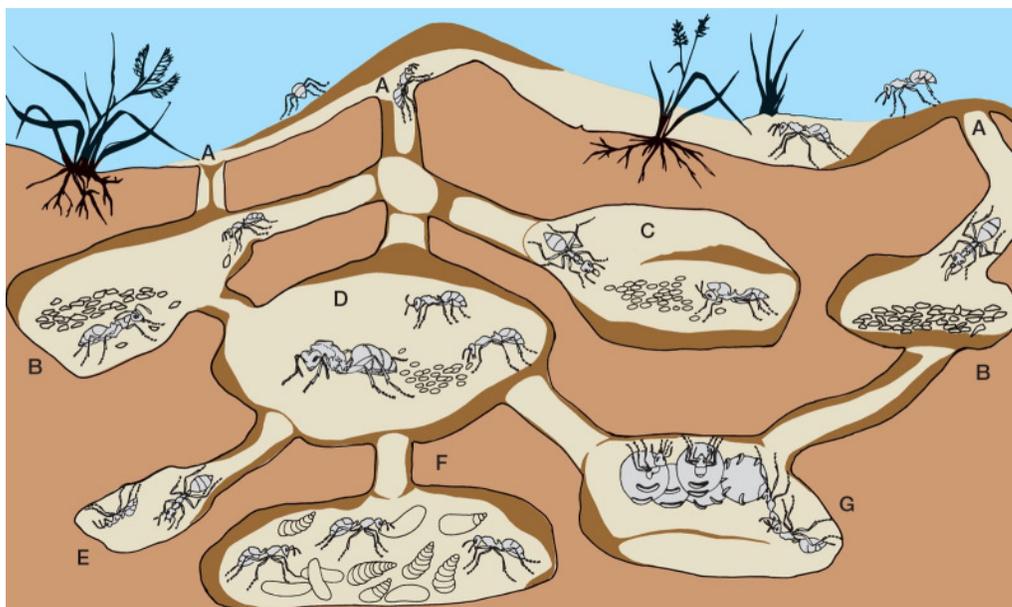


### Ant Colonies

There are three kinds of ants in a colony: The queen, the female workers and males. The queen and the males have wings, while the workers don't have wings. The queen is the only ant that can lay eggs. The male ant's job is to mate with future queen ants and they do not live very long afterwards. Once the queen grows to adulthood, she spends the rest of her life laying eggs! Some ant colonies have just one queen and others have many.

Ant colonies also have soldier ants that protect the queen, defend the colony, gather food and attack enemy colonies in search of food and nesting space. If they defeat another ant colony, they take away eggs of the defeated ant colony. When the eggs hatch, the new ants become the "slave" ants for the colony. Some jobs of the colony include taking care of the eggs and babies, gathering food for the colony and building the anthills or mounds.

### Diagram of an Ant Colony



A = entrances leading to a variety of chambers.

B = the food storage chamber.

C = the workers care for the unhatched eggs..

D = the queen's chamber.

E = worker ants are digging a new chamber.

F = the nursery for the larvae (the hatched eggs).

G = in this chamber, more worker ants are storing extra food in their bellies for the colony.

## Amazing Ant Facts

- There are more than 12,000 species of ants all over the world.
- An ant can lift 20 times its own body weight. If an 8 year old child was as strong as an ant, he or she would be able to pick up a car!
- Some queen ants can live for many years and have millions of babies!
- Ants don't have ears. Ants "hear" by feeling vibrations in the ground through their feet.
- When ants fight, it is usually to the death!
- Queen ants have wings, which they shed when they start a new nest.
- Ants don't have lungs. Oxygen enters through tiny holes all over the body and carbon dioxide leaves through the same holes.

## Reading Answers (section 3)

Answer these questions about *Amazing Ants*.

1. Ants have been able to survive on earth for

10 years

100 years

100 million years

1000 years

2. Ants are social insects? What does this mean?

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3. When the queen ant reaches adulthood she spends her life

gathering food

defending the colony

laying eggs

eating and sleeping

4. What do the soldier ants do?

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5. What happens to the ant eggs from a defeated colony when they hatch?

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6. Now, look carefully at the diagram of an ant colony and complete the grid below. The first one has been done for you.

entrances leading to a variety of chambers	<b>A</b>
the queen's chamber	
the nursery for the larvae (the hatched eggs)	

***Well done! You have finished all the sections. Now go back and check your answers.***