

ANTS



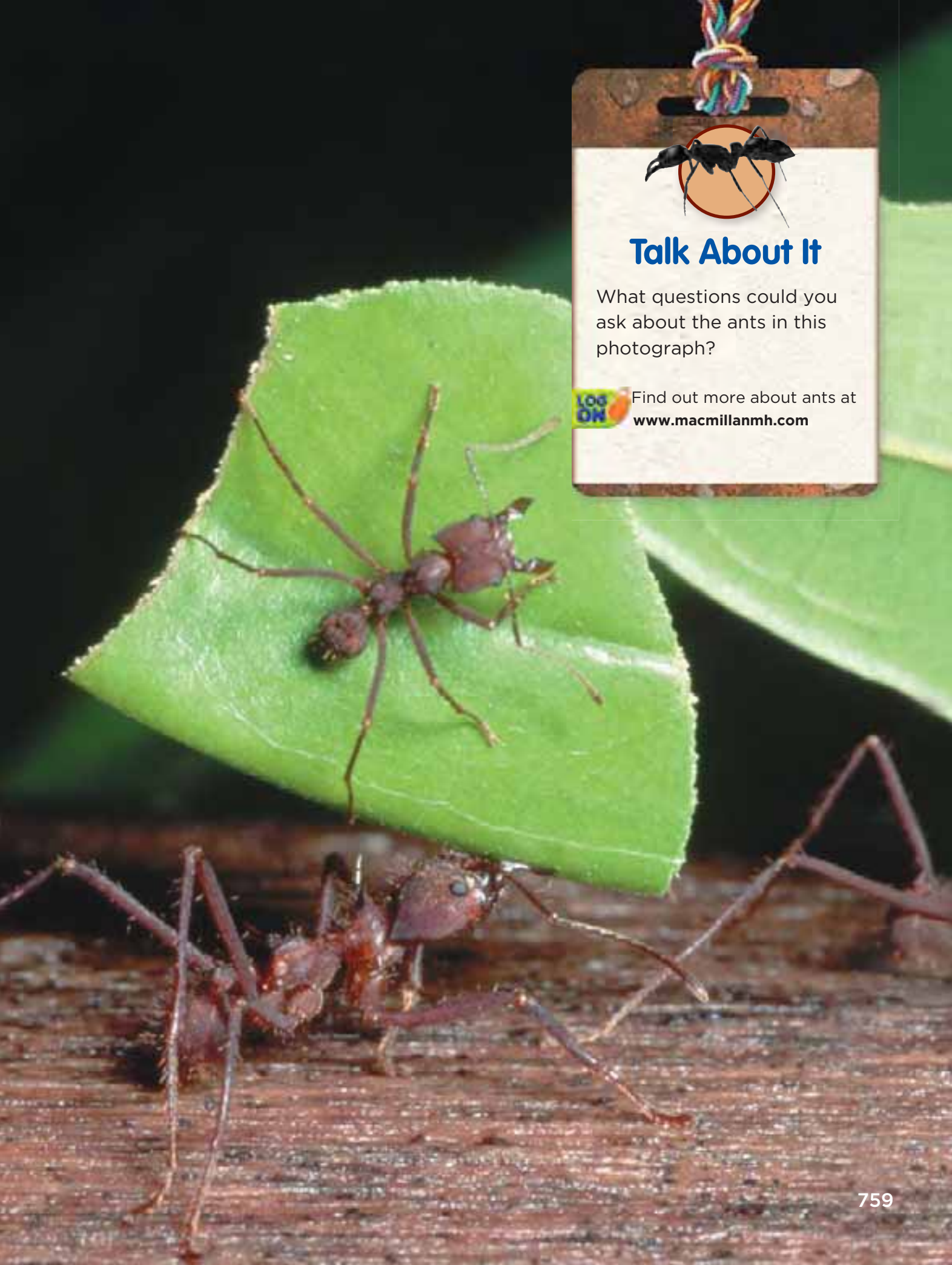


Talk About It

What questions could you ask about the ants in this photograph?



Find out more about ants at www.macmillanmh.com



Amazing Ants

by Tara Rosati

Vocabulary

astronomer nutrients
investigates prehistoric
solitary overcome
territory
communication

Word Parts

Greek Roots can help you figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words.

astron = star

astronomer = one who studies the stars

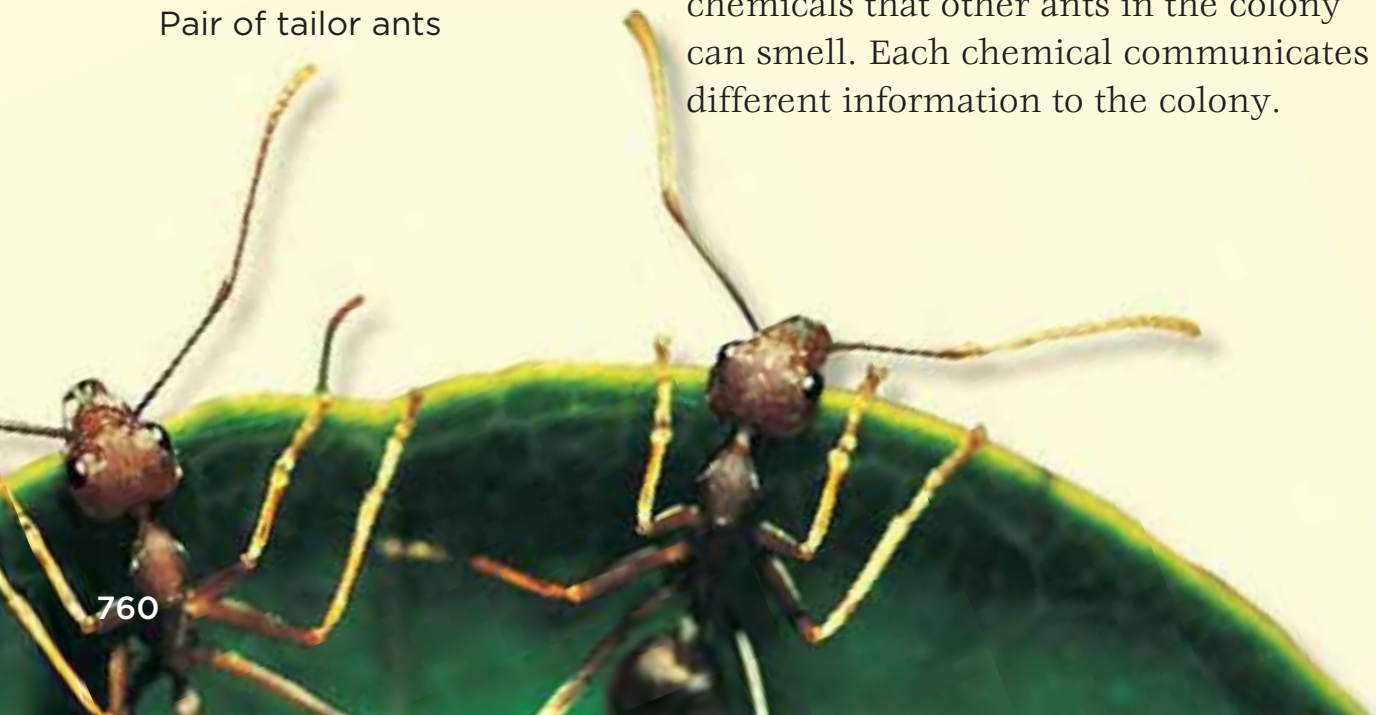
What do you want to be when you grow up? Perhaps an **astronomer** who studies the stars? Perhaps a scientist who **investigates** ants? Find out how interesting these insects are.

Social Insects

There are about 10,000 kinds of ants. Most are not **solitary** but live in groups called colonies. Ants are everywhere, but they prefer their **territory** to be in warm climates and never where it's very cold.

Communication among ants varies. Some tap on the outside of their nest to alert the ants inside that food or enemies are nearby. Other ants can make squeaking or buzzing sounds. Ants also make chemicals that other ants in the colony can smell. Each chemical communicates different information to the colony.

Pair of tailor ants



Dairying Ants

These ants got their name from the way they get most of their **nutrients**. Dairying ants “milk” insects called aphids. In exchange for the juice, dairying ants protect the aphids against other insects.

Some dairying ants are also babysitters. They keep aphids’ eggs in their nests during the winter. Then when the eggs hatch, the ants place the baby aphids on plants.

Fungus Growers

Some ants are gardeners. They grow fungi that the colony can eat. These ants gather leaves, flower petals, and other things from outside the nest. Then they bring them inside to use as fertilizer in their fungi gardens.

Ant Survival

Ants have lived on Earth for a long time. They have been found in **prehistoric** pieces of amber. This is material that existed during the time of the dinosaurs! These tiny creatures have had to **overcome** many challenges in order to survive, and ants are here to stay.



Black garden ant caught in sundew

Reread for Comprehension



Analyze Text Structure

Description Authors may structure the information they present in a variety of ways. A paragraph may define or classify. It may list examples using words such as *for example*, *such as*, *is like*, *include*, or *which shows*. It may also describe the characteristics of the subject.

A Description Web can help you identify text structure. Reread the article and use the chart to help you determine the text structure.

