









Ant Antics

Use basic observation and counting skills
 to spot leaf-cutter ant behaviors

Location in Zoo: World of the Insects – Leaf Cutter Ants

Materials: Pencil

Activity: Observe the leaf-cutter ant exhibit for three minutes and see if you can check off every ant behavior in the list below. Then pick one of the behaviors and observe the ants for one minute, counting how many ants are doing the activity. Do the same for as many behavior categories as you can. Then total the number of ants you’ve counted for all of the behaviors.

- Ant tug-of-war with a leaf bit**  **Number of Ants:** _____
- Ant picking up a fallen leaf bit**  **Number of Ants:** _____
- Ant carrying a stick, a leaf stem or a flower**  **Number of Ants:** _____
- Ant riding on a leaf that is being carried by another ant**  **Number of Ants:** _____
- Ant falling out of tall plants**  **Number of Ants:** _____
- Ant cutting a big piece of leaf into smaller pieces**  **Number of Ants:** _____
- Ant carrying a leaf in the “wrong” direction (away from the nest)**  **Number of Ants:** _____
- Ant carrying a piece of fungus (Hint: Check near nest)**  **Number of Ants:** _____

Total: _____