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## Animal Group Behavior Activity for Kids

### Ant Farm DIY

 Duration: **15–30 min**

 Difficulty: **Easy**

 Cost: **\$0 to \$5**

Make your own ant farm to observe animal group behavior!

### Material List

- 2** Different-sized plastic containers with lids
- 1** Box of sand
- 1** BBQ skewer
- 1** Apple
- 1** Cup of water
- 1** Tube of ants can be bought from [Ants Alive](#) for \$5

### Instructions

- 1** Place the lid on the smaller container, and place it inside the larger container.
- 2** Add sand around the smaller container to fill the larger container about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- 3** Use the skewer to start some tunnels through the sand near the sides.
- 4** Place the tube of ants into the refrigerator for 10 min to slow them down.
- 5** Gently tap on the tube to release the ants onto the sand.
- 6** Add a small apple slice and a tablespoon of water in the middle of the sand.
- 7** Poke pin holes in the large lid and keep the container sealed.
- 8** The ants build their tunnels over a few days.

**Warning:** Ants can pinch you – use non-latex gloves and put them in the fridge before transferring.

**Ant Care Tips:** Do not keep them in direct sunlight – a cool room temperature of 60–70 degrees F is best. Add a teaspoon of water and a tiny piece of apple once a week.

### How It Works

Ants live in groups called colonies. They each play a role in a larger community. Together they build systems of tunnels for shelter and to protect their young (larva). They also work together as a group to collect food and bring it back to the developing larva. We call this "Animal Group Behavior!"