









## 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!"

