

# All about fire ants

DPIRD Schools Program



Answers are in our video and the PowerPoint (available from [www.nswdpi-schools-program.com/fireants-secondary](http://www.nswdpi-schools-program.com/fireants-secondary))

## Description:

What is the scientific name for Red Imported Fire Ants (Fire Ants)?

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What colour/s are Fire Ants?

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How is their length different to other ants?

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Do Fire Ants look like any of our native ant species in Australia? If so, which ones?

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How can you tell Fire Ants apart from other ants?

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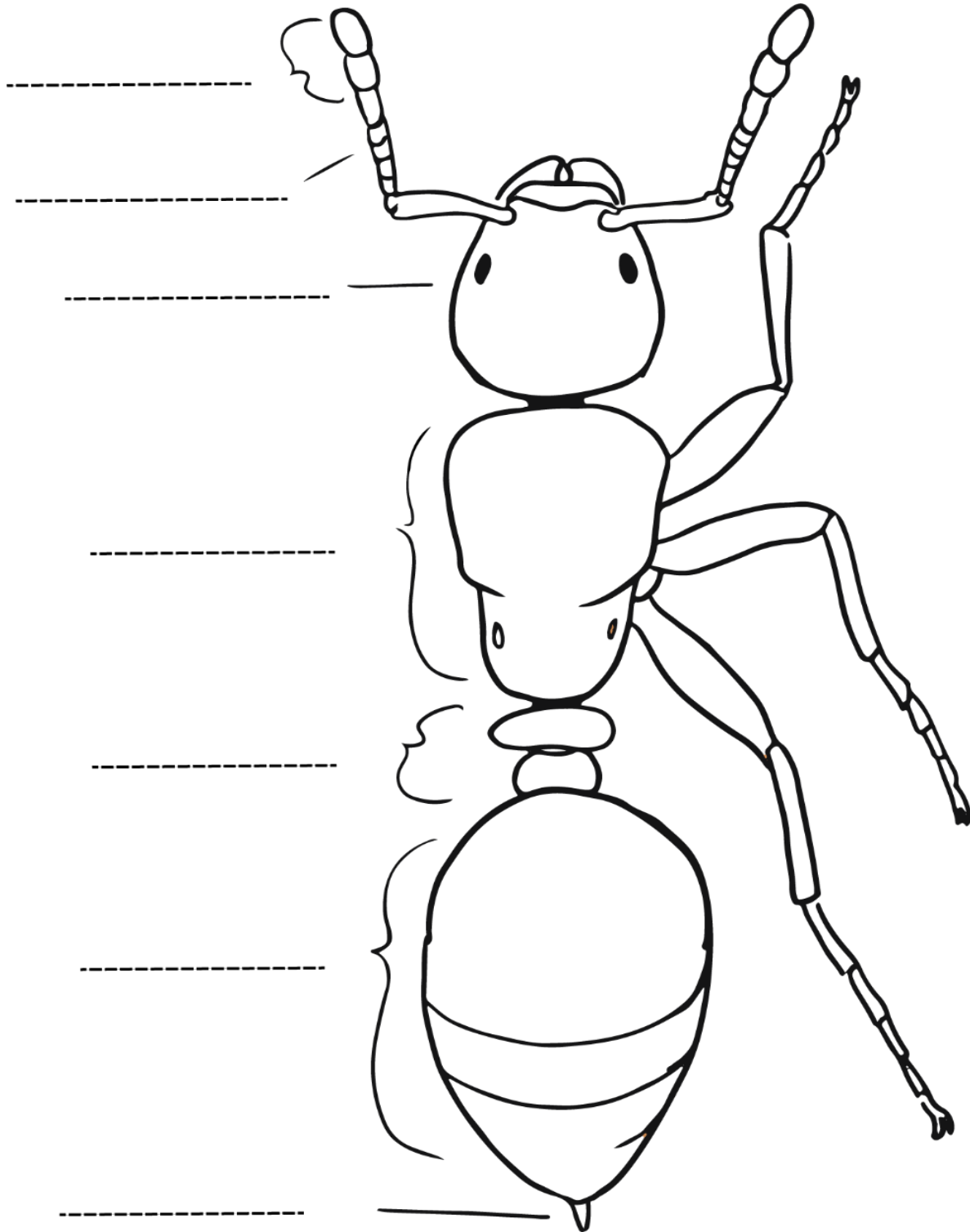


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Label this diagram:



Protect our lifestyle, environment and industries  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants)



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## Habitat and diet

What does a Fire Ant nest look like?

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Where would you find a Fire Ant nest?

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.....

How are they different to other ant nests?

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.....

What do Fire Ants eat?

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.....  
.....

When are Fire Ants most likely to be scavenging (hunting for food)?

.....  
.....



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## Biosecurity

Where did Fire Ants originally come from?

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Why are Fire Ants such a threat to Australia?

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How do Fire Ants spread?

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What is each individual's biosecurity responsibility?

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## Impacts

Describe how Fire Ants could impact our way of life in Australia in terms of Human health

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Culture

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Environment

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Economy

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Agriculture

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If you think you find a Fire Ants nest, what should you do?

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## Stings

How do Fire Ants usually behave when disturbed?

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Why are Fire Ants dangerous to humans?

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What types of animals can Fire Ants harm and how do they harm them?

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What should you do if you get stung by a Fire Ant?

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## Detection science

What is the technology being used to track the spread of the ants?

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Is it accurate? Justify your answer

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Where is the testing being carried out?

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What are the results showing?

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Explain the technology being used to stop the spread of Fire Ants in NSW

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## Check for fire ants



### CHECK:

- Open sunny areas like lawns, parks, paddocks and disturbed ground
- Where hay, turf, soil, sand, gravel, mulch or potted plants have been used or stored



Fire ants attack and sting over and over

### LOOK FOR:

- Nest mounds or patches of soil up to 40 cm high, with no obvious entrance holes
- Aggressive ants, swarming from the nest if gently prodded with a long stick
- Small, dark reddish-brown ants with darker black abdomens
- 2-6 mm long and a range of sizes within a nest

Think you've seen them?  
Call us **1800 680 244**

Scan the QR code for more information  
[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)



18289 06/23



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