



Hi Ants!



What are we going to learn today?

- 1) The top five invasive ant pests.
- 2) The problems they cause to our people, our agriculture and our natural environment.
- 3) Where these ants come from and how they arrive in our country.



Ants? What are they?

- Ants are living things. They need air, food and water.
- Ants are insects.
- They have 3 body parts and 6 legs.
- They are in the same family as wasps and bees.
- The queen ant can lay thousands of eggs a day.



What is an invasive ant?



What is an invasive ant?



An ant that is introduced outside its home range and that damages the natural environment of its new home.

The picture shows red imported fire ants travelling over floodwaters on an uprooted tree

Are all ants invasive?



Are all ants invasive?

NO!

- Only some introduced ants cause problems.
- Some ants are only bad in great numbers.
- Most ants do good things for the environment. They cycle nutrients in soil and eat the larvae of household pests like flies and cockroaches.



The ant in the picture is called a trap jaw ant. It has been introduced into the Pacific but does not cause problems (although it can bite!)

Are all ants bad?



Why are some ants bad?



Clockwise from left: A little fire ant biting; skin rash caused by yellow crazy ants; Sea bird chick covered by African big-headed ants; a child stung on the cheek by a fire ant; ants 'farm' scale insects, which damage crops.

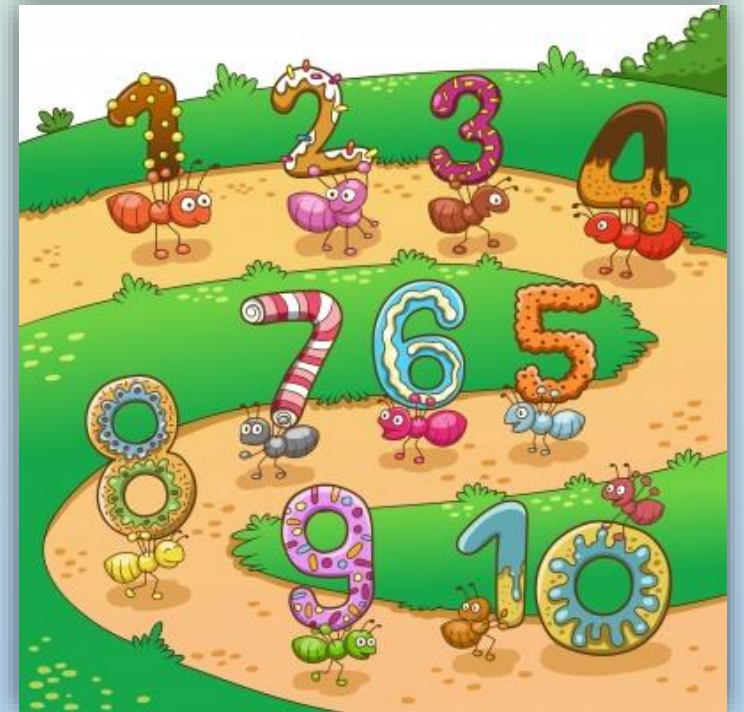
What we have learnt today

- Ants are insects. They have 3 body parts and 6 legs.
- They are in the same family as wasps and bees and the queen can lay thousands of eggs everyday.
- An ant is invasive when it has left its home range and damages the natural environment of its new home.
- Not all ants are invasive. Most do good things for the environment like helping decomposition.
- Some ants are bad because they can cause harm to our farms, human and our environment.



For our next lesson

- Can you think about any stories you may have about ants in your homes, on your family's crops or you might have seen in the bush? It can be your personal story or stories from your family members.
- Come ready to share them at the next lesson.



See you next time!

