



# Where did the ants come from?

# What are we going to learn today?

- 1) Understand where the top five invasive ant pests come from.
- 2) How these ant pests arrive in the country.
- 3) Perform an experiment to find out what attracts these ants.
- 4) How we can use the information from our experiments.



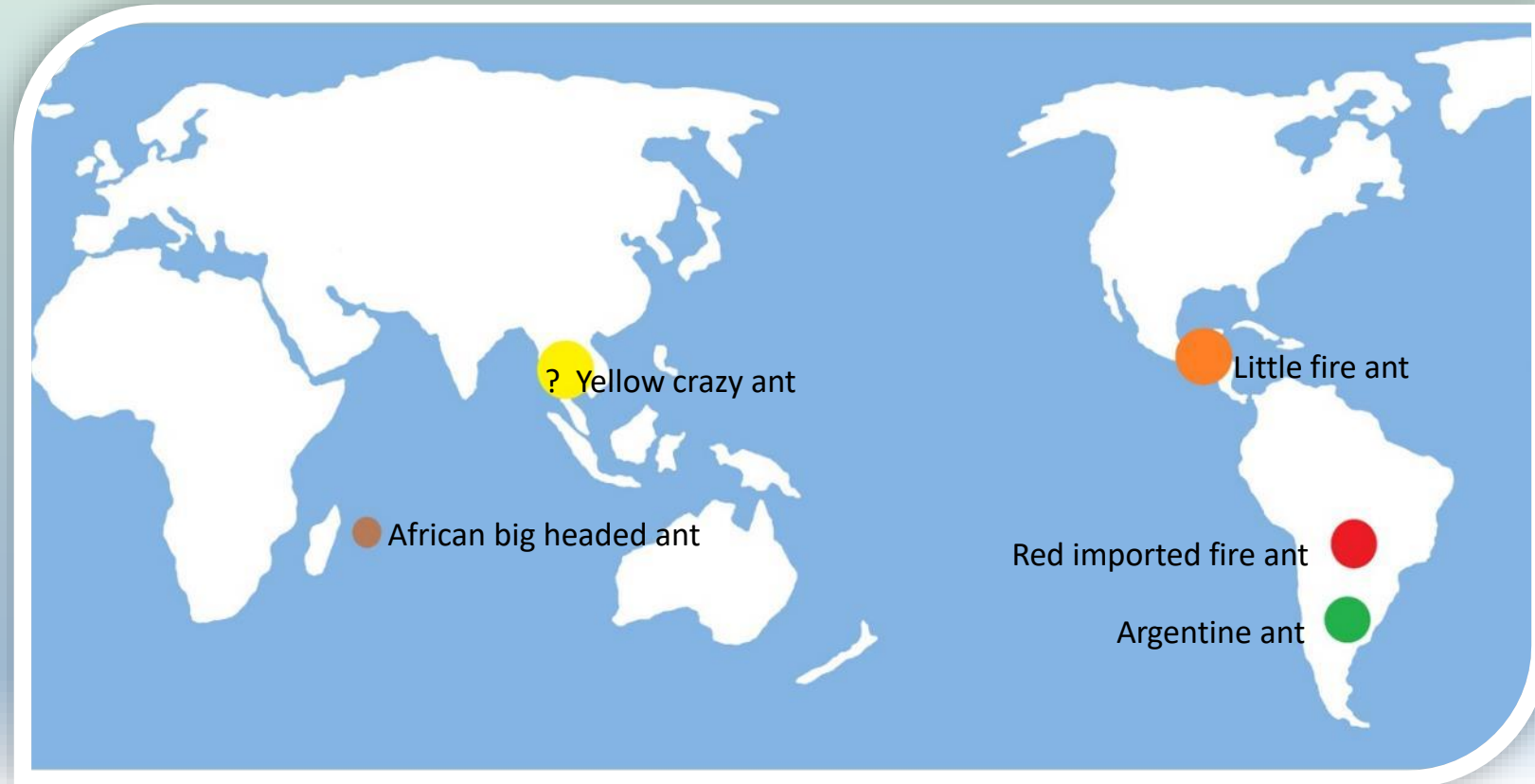
# Let's recap

In our previous lesson, we

- 1) learnt about the top five invasive ant pests and the problems they cause people, agriculture and the natural environment. learnt that not all ants are invasive.
- 1) learnt about the life cycle and structure of their colony.



# Where did the ants come from?





# How do ants get from one country to another?



Although queen ants have wings, no ant is able to fly the long distances between Pacific countries. And it only takes **one queen ant** to start an invasion!

**Where else do you think they are hiding?**



# Let's do a **Think-Pair-Share**

## Step 1:

Think about the possible places the ants could be hiding.

## Step 2:

When your teacher tells you to, find a partner or you can have groups of 3 and share what your ideas

## Step 3:

When the teacher tells you to, return as a class and share your conversations with everyone!



Now it's your turn to try it!

# Where might we find invasive ants?

How they come into the country:

- Ports
- On ships
- Airports
- Unloading areas
- Storage areas





# How do we find ants when they arrive?

**Biosecurity!**

Biosecurity officers check incoming goods at airports and ports to detect invasive ants



How do we find ants when they arrive?

**Biosecurity!**



Lures (sugar, peanut butter) placed in ports attract ants

# How do we find ants when they arrive?

Make communities aware of the problems ants can cause. Community members can be on the lookout for invasive ants



# Activity Time!

We are going to conduct an experiment on ant attraction!





# Experiment - Attracting ants

You can use lures to attract ants! Here is how you can make some lures,

Steps	What you have to do
Step 1:	Use a range of different foods: sweet (honey, jam or toilet paper soaked in sugar water) and savoury (fish, peanut butter, corned beef).
Step 2:	Put a fingernail sized blob of food on pieces of card or in plastic cups.
Step 3:	Make up around 20 lures - the more lures you make, the higher the chances of you attracting more ants!
Step 4:	Leave the lures in different places outside for 15-20 minutes in shaded spots around the school grounds. <u>Record</u> the number of ants you observed at each lure.



# Attracting Ants!

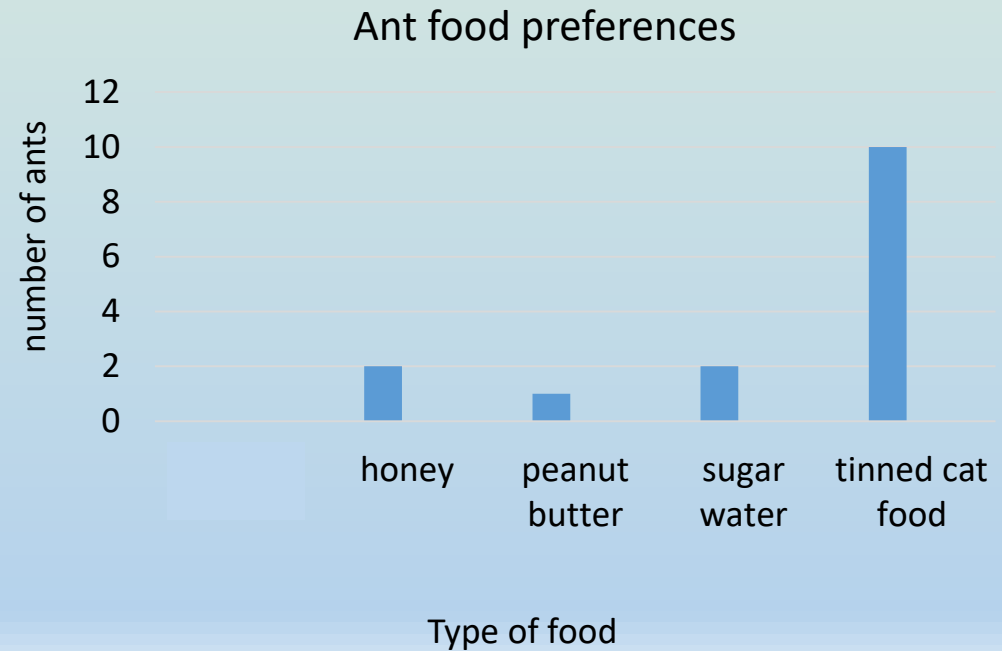
- We are going out to conduct our experiment now.

## Some simple rules to remember:

- 1) Always take care of one another.
- 2) Take care not to damage any other parts of nature.
- 3) If in doubt, always ask the teacher.
- 4) Retrieve all experiments, do not leave any food behind.
- 5) Be back to the classroom on time.



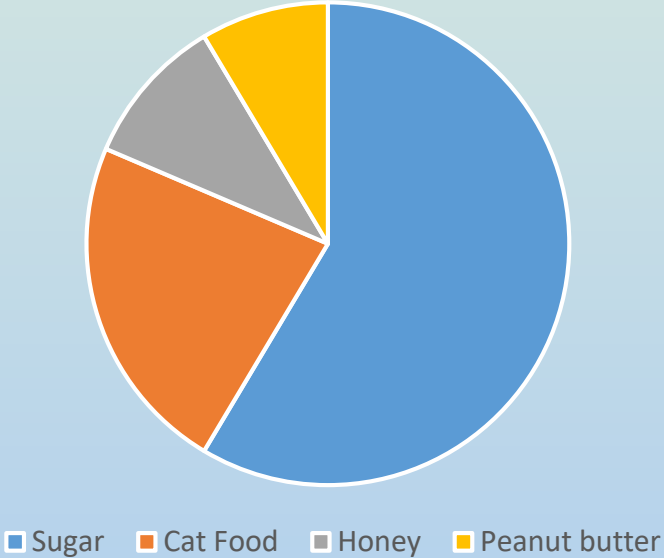
# What food did the ants like best?



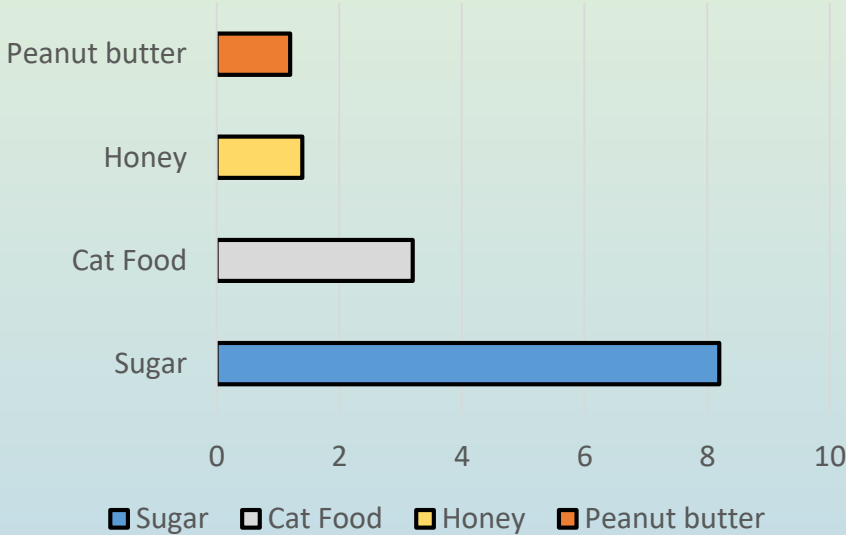
Make a bar graph (or any other charts) of the number of ants on different foods, and the different types of ants you found (if there were different types).

# Examples of charts

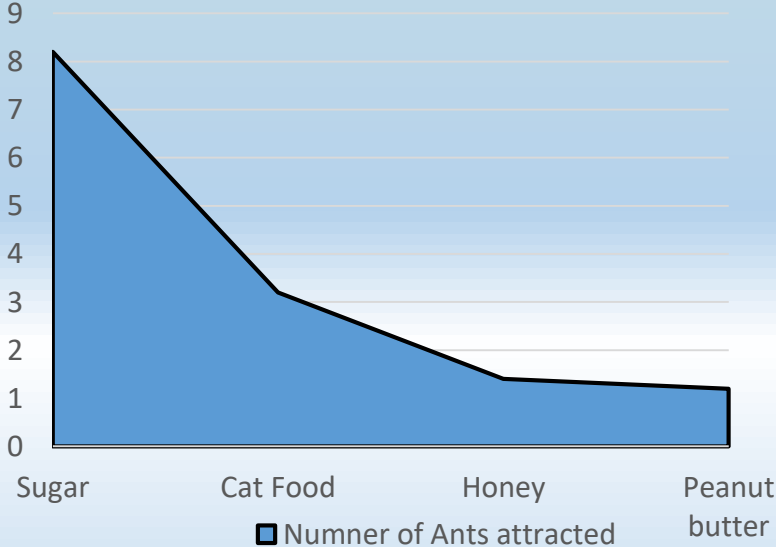
### Pie Chart



### Bar Graph



### Area Graph





# What can we do with the data?

Now that we know what attracts the ants and make them come, what can we do as a community to stop them?

Record your responses as a class.

Class responses:



# What we have learnt today

- Understand where the top five invasive ant pests come from.
- How these ant pests arrive in the country.
- How we can use the information from our experiments to help us make decisions.



**See you next time!**

