

# The Hidden Truth



**U of A** UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

Cooperative Extension Service

**AG1061**

About  
**Red Imported  
Fire Ants**

If you like this coloring book,  
you'll love the CD-ROM.



**THE ANTS UNDERGROUND**

*Contact your local County Cooperative Extension Service Office  
for more information about the CD-ROM.*

# The Hidden Truth

## About Red Imported Fire Ants

Dear Readers,

We hope after reading and coloring in this book you will have a better understanding about Red Imported Fire Ants and how they live. Adults that would like to learn how to minimize the impact of Fire Ants using various management practices and pesticides should contact their Cooperative Extension Service office for more information.

Thank you and enjoy,

Cooperative Extension Service  
4-H Ant Stompers  
Little River County

- This book was designed and illustrated by Brian Richardson.
- The copy was written by Donna Shanklin and Brian Richardson.
- Special thanks to Mary Jean Bowling for her contributions.

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University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture, and County Governments Cooperating

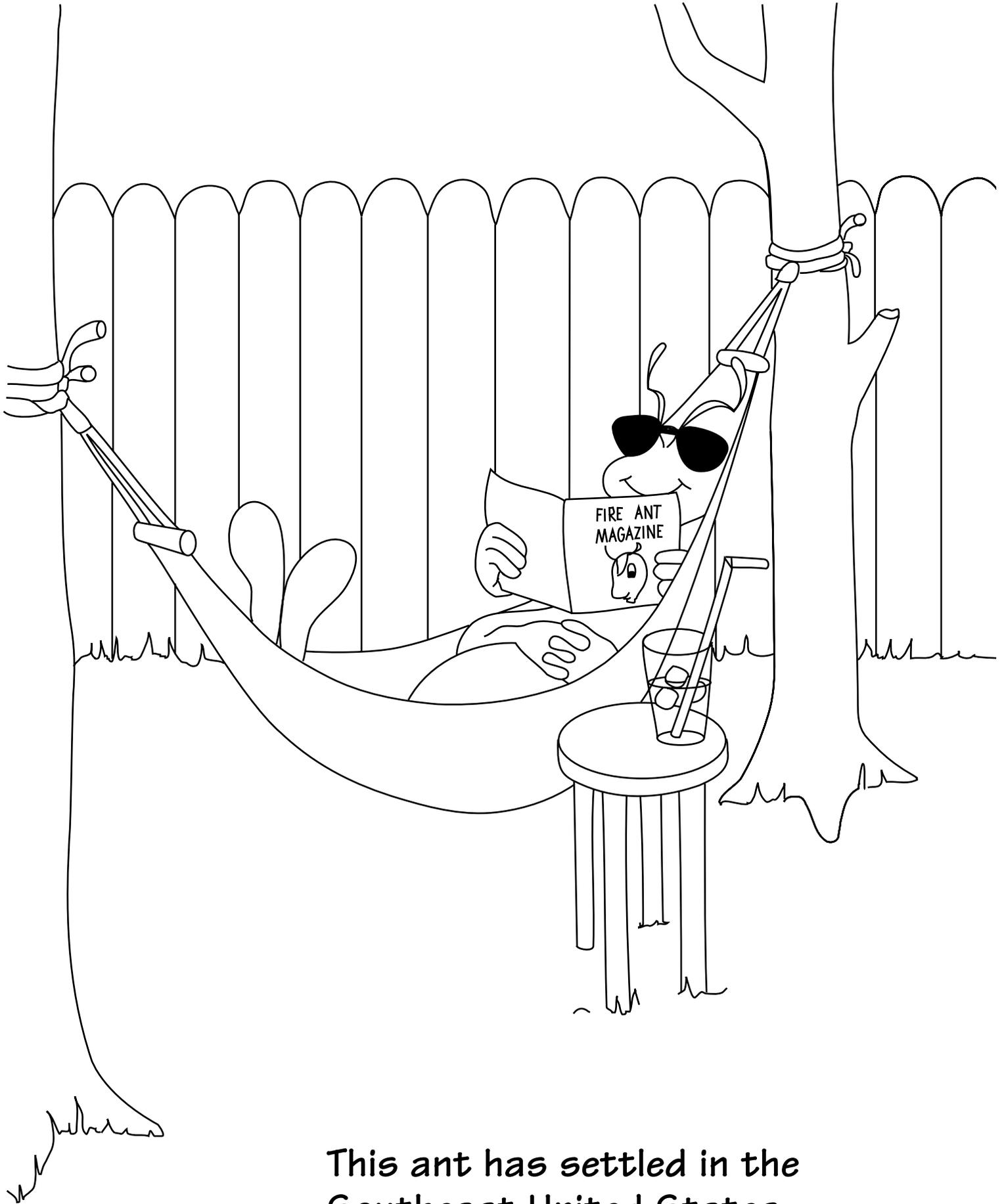
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The Red Imported Fire Ant is not from the United States. It is from South America. It was accidentally brought to the U.S. on a ship.



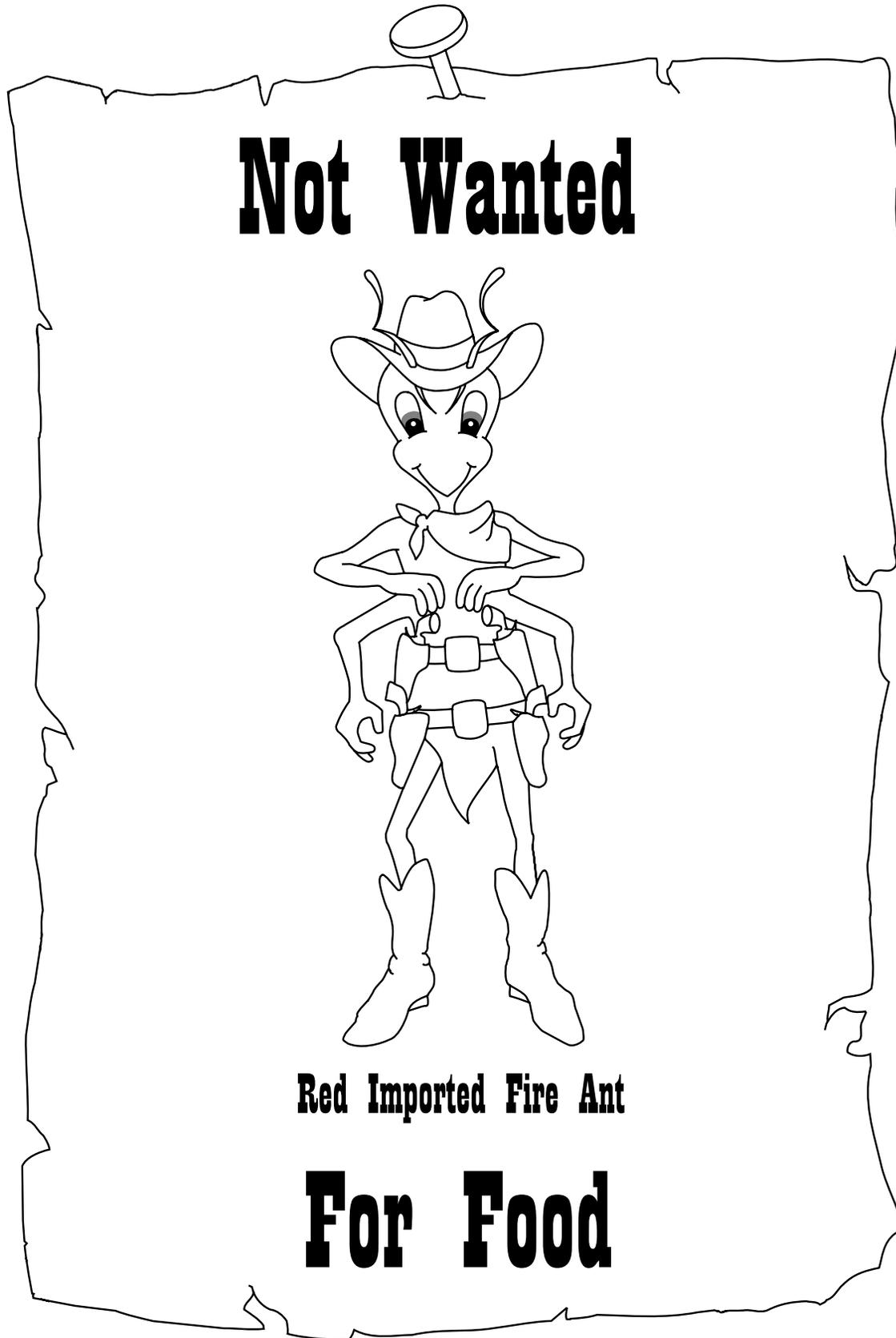


This ant has settled in the  
Southeast United States.

Native Ants don't like the Red Imported Fire Ant. Fire Ants can out compete them for food and are more aggressive.



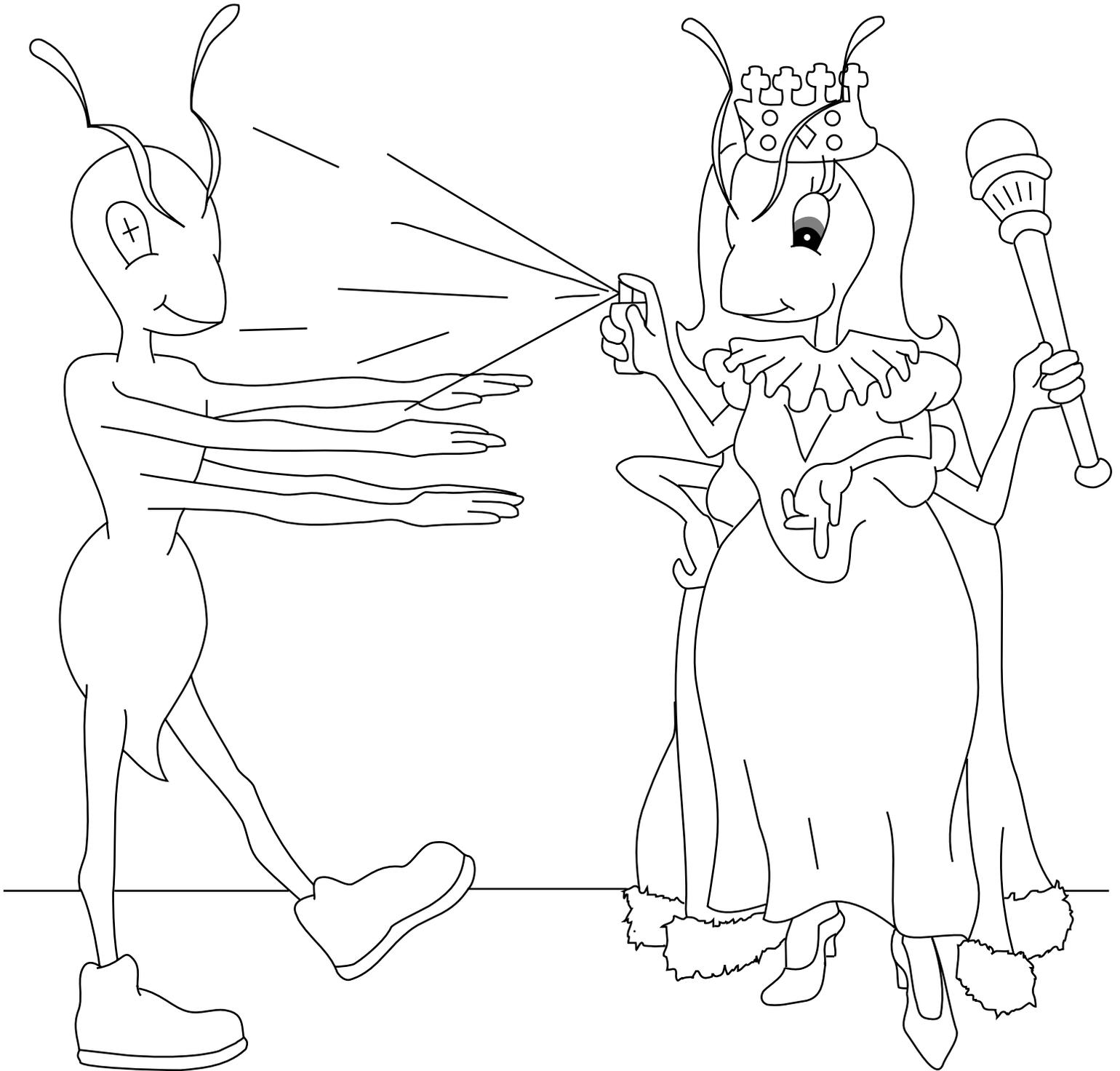
The Red Imported Fire Ant doesn't have a lot of natural enemies in the U.S. There are no anteaters here and other insects don't like to eat them.



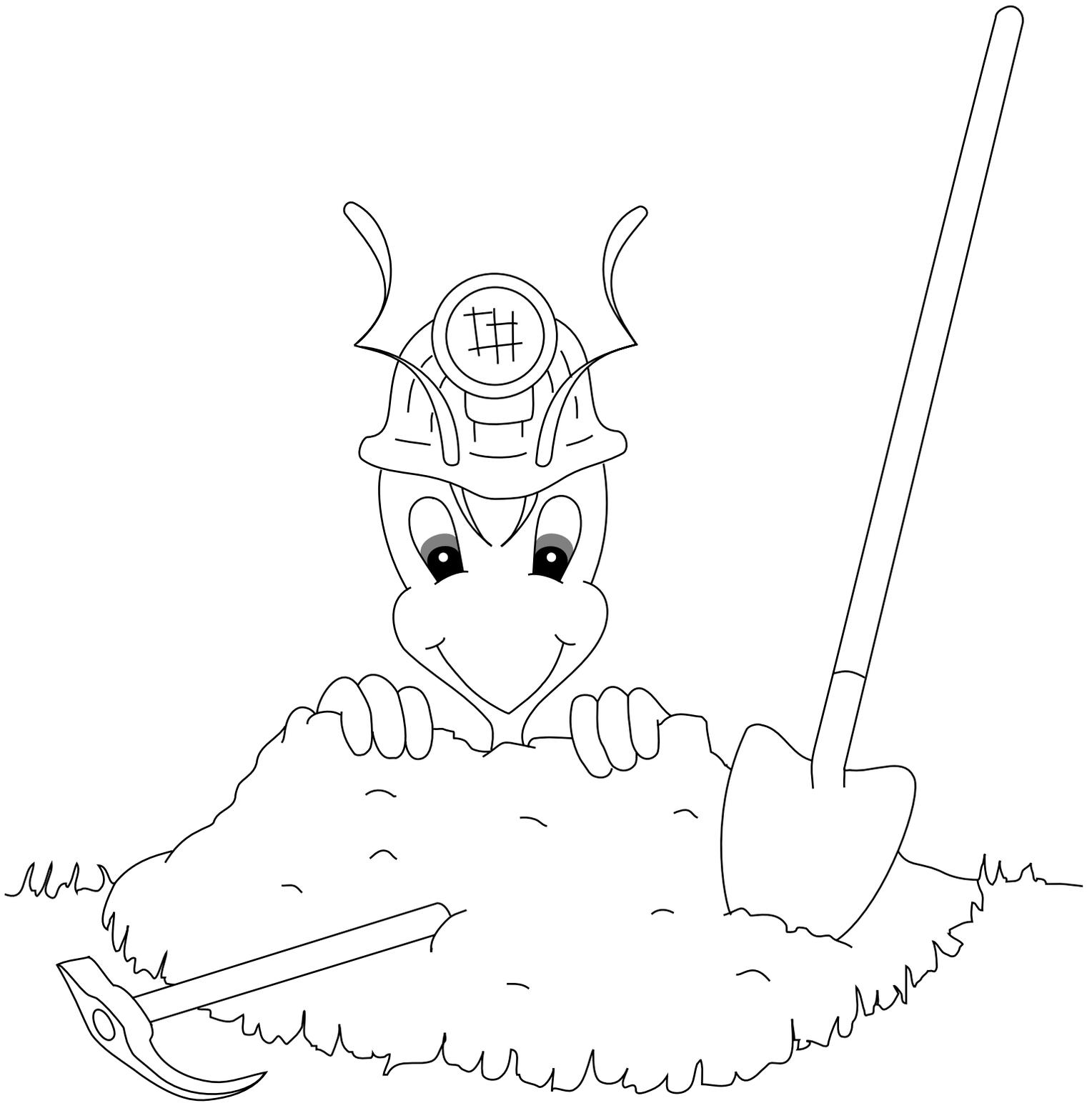
Fire Ants protect their mound because it is their home. It is also where the Queen is located.



The Queen's job is to lay eggs. She controls the colony by using special scents called Pheromones.



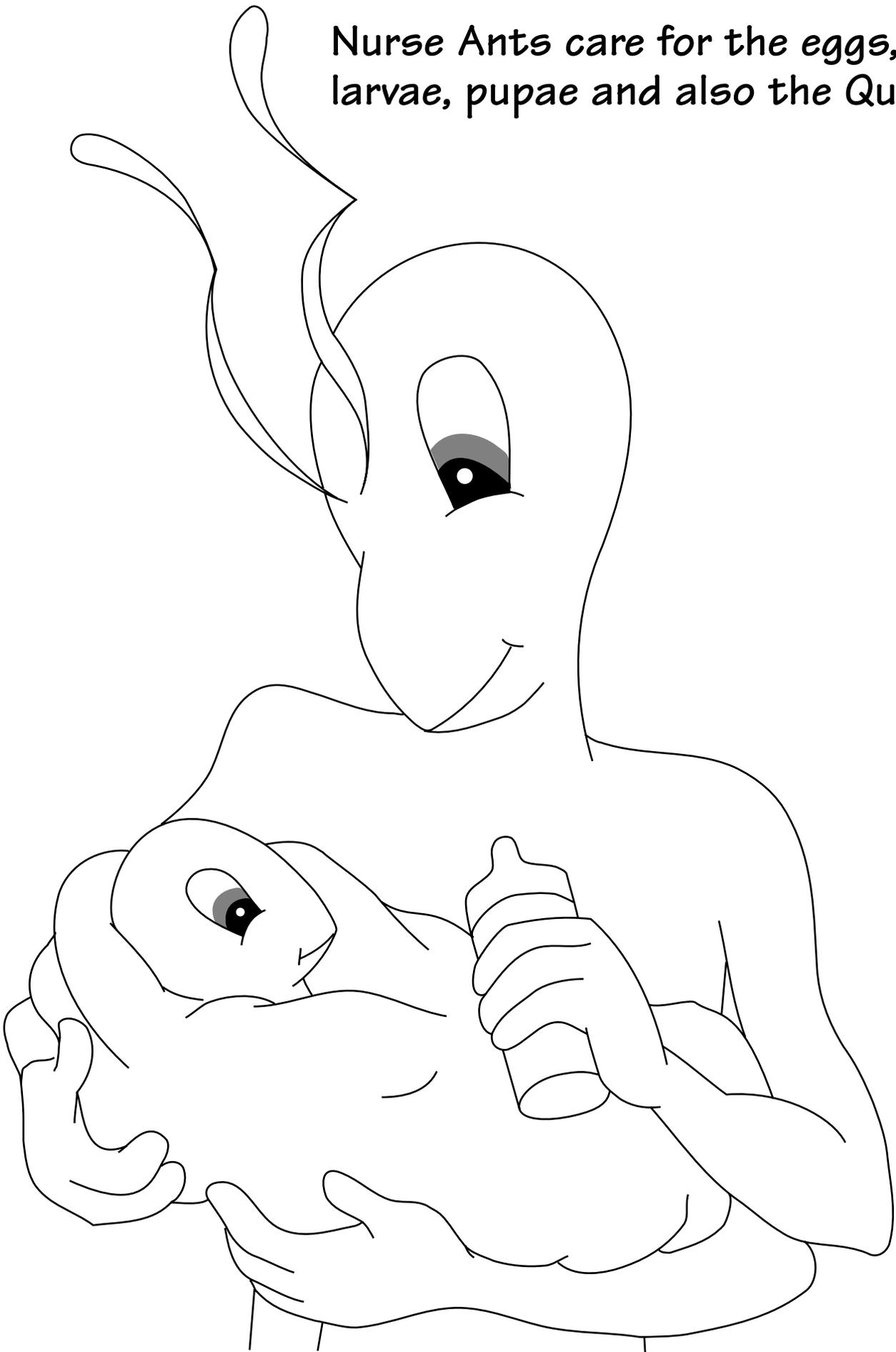
Reserve Ants protect the mound and build tunnels.



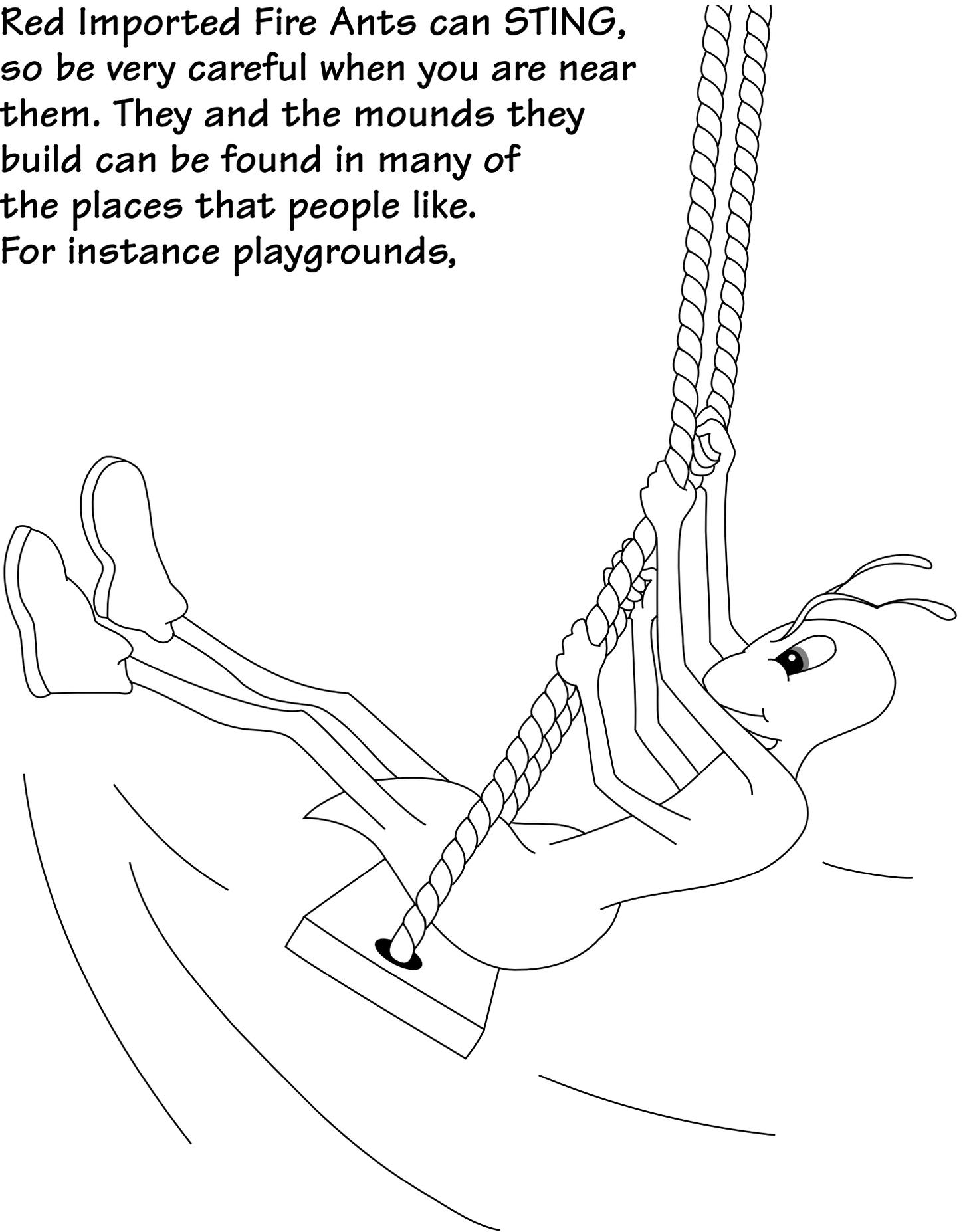
Foraging Ants collect food for the colony.



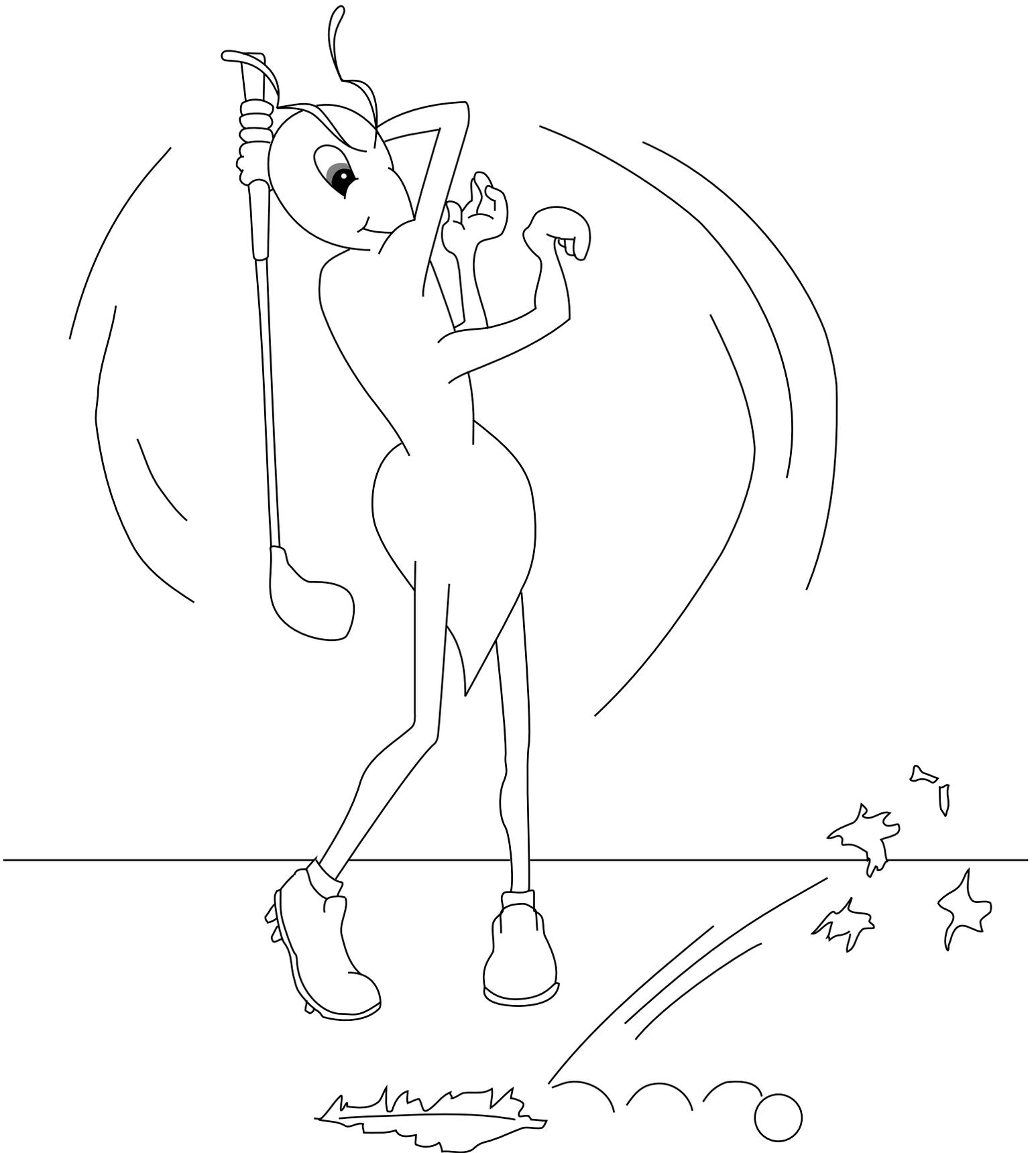
Nurse Ants care for the eggs,  
larvae, pupae and also the Queen.

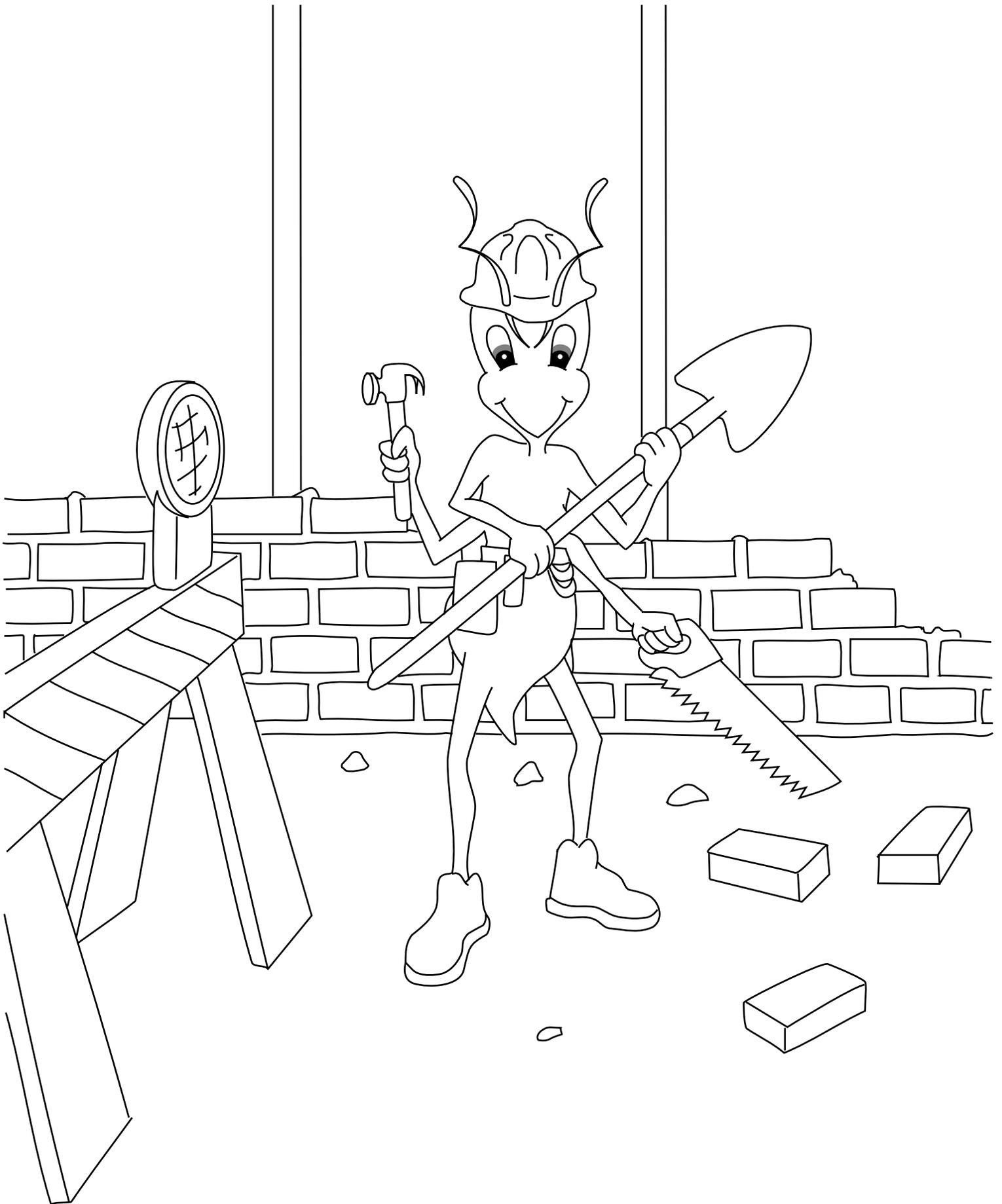


Red Imported Fire Ants can STING,  
so be very careful when you are near  
them. They and the mounds they  
build can be found in many of  
the places that people like.  
For instance playgrounds,



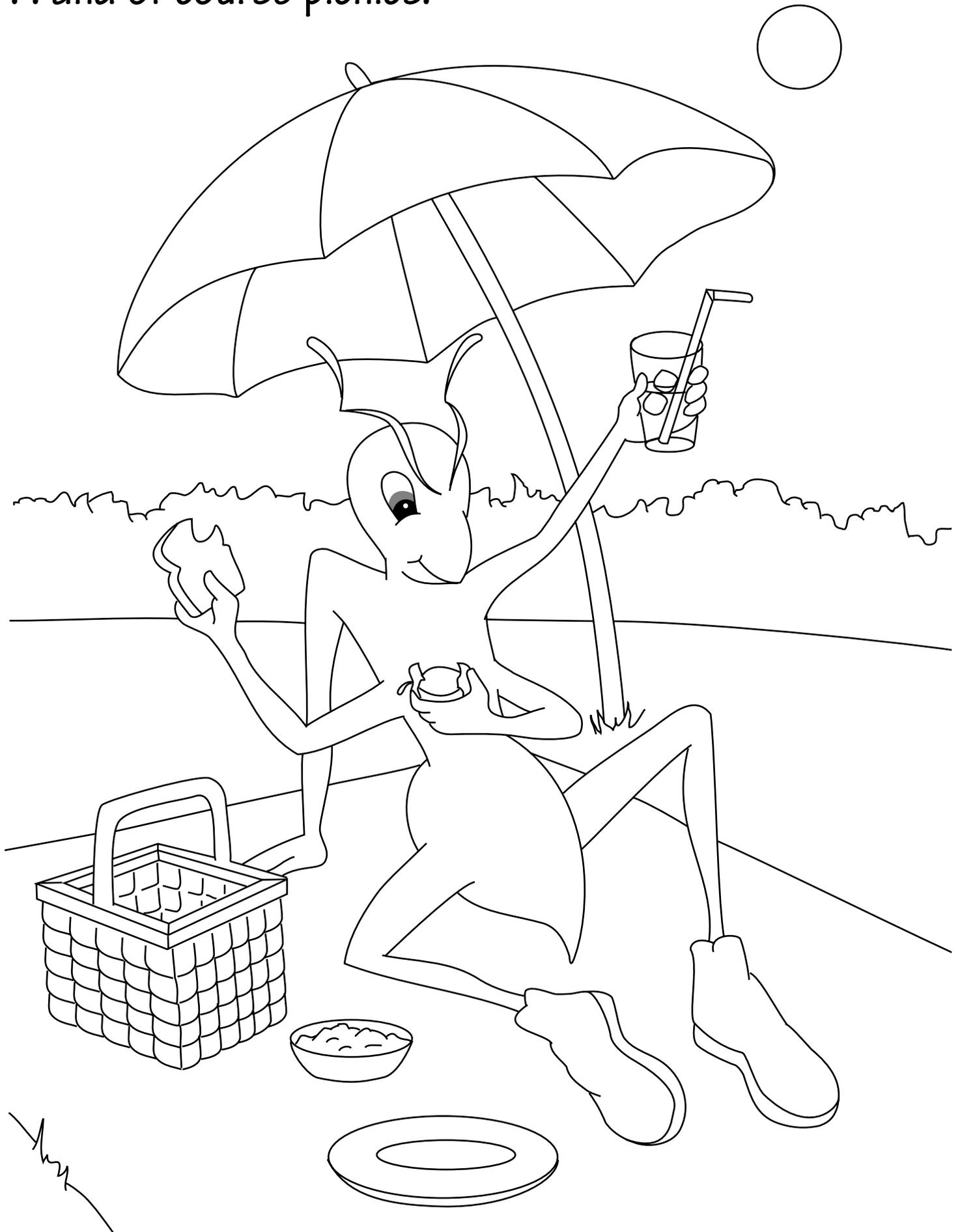
... and golf courses,



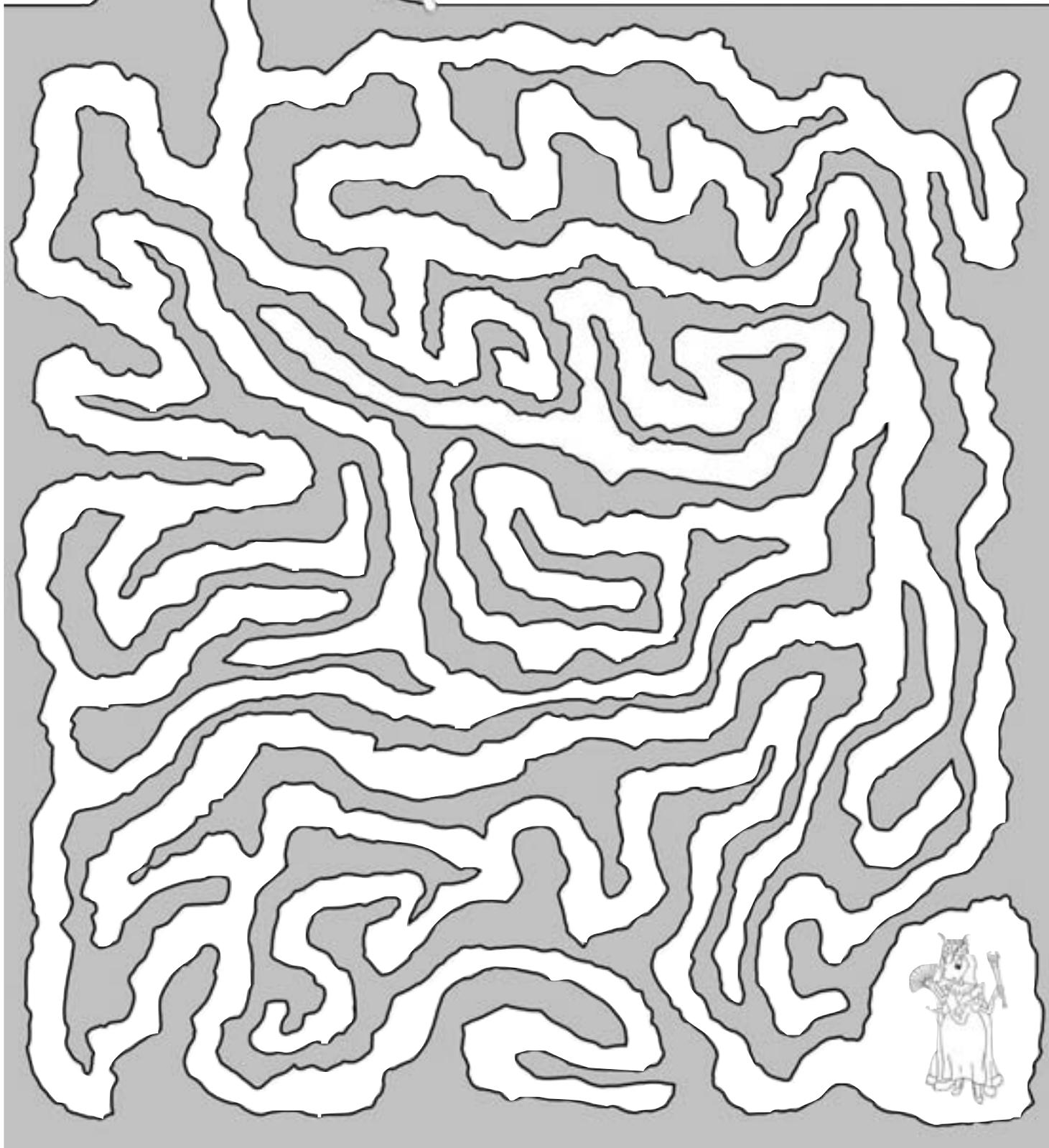


... construction sites too,

. . . and of course picnics.



“Help me find my way to the Queen!”



M H B C K S O U T H A M E R I C A U Z  
 A F O O D N L N J Q X S D V O X Y G L  
 K S J N I F M O I K D A N G E R O U S  
 P F Y S W P H E R O M O N E S Z O B T  
 C A O T S X L G M Y I K R Q J D G W H  
 I Q N R V G W A Q J M P D A I C N O S  
 B U A U A R S I Y C P T I C L J I R O  
 C E Z C K G D B L G O K Z C O V E N M  
 W E V T G N E H X F R C K I N T Q B U  
 G N P I U X G R K V T O P D A I O W N  
 O H K O A S D O R J E F U E E N C D I  
 L Q M N T R K B E W D N T N H U F S T  
 F I Z S S T N K S B L N I T D R Y X E  
 C B F I R E Q E E H A J I A N S F L D  
 O V E T H Y I N R P F V X L W E Q D S  
 U C X E K M V L V A M I D E Y Z I E T  
 R K V S E R O S E V R E D B K A V W A  
 S F G N V D K H X Z C O J A O F N B T  
 E W E L Y A G G R E S S I V E X C T E  
 S P A L B R S C I A P L J W D Q I N S

## FIND THESE WORDS HIDDEN ABOVE:

*Accidental*

*Aggressive*

*Ants*

*Anteaters*

*Construction*

*Sites*

*Dangerous*

*Enemies*

*Food*

*Fire*

*Forager*

*Golf Courses*

*Imported*

*Mound*

*Nurse*

*Pheromones*

*Picnics*

*Playgrounds*

*Queen*

*Red*

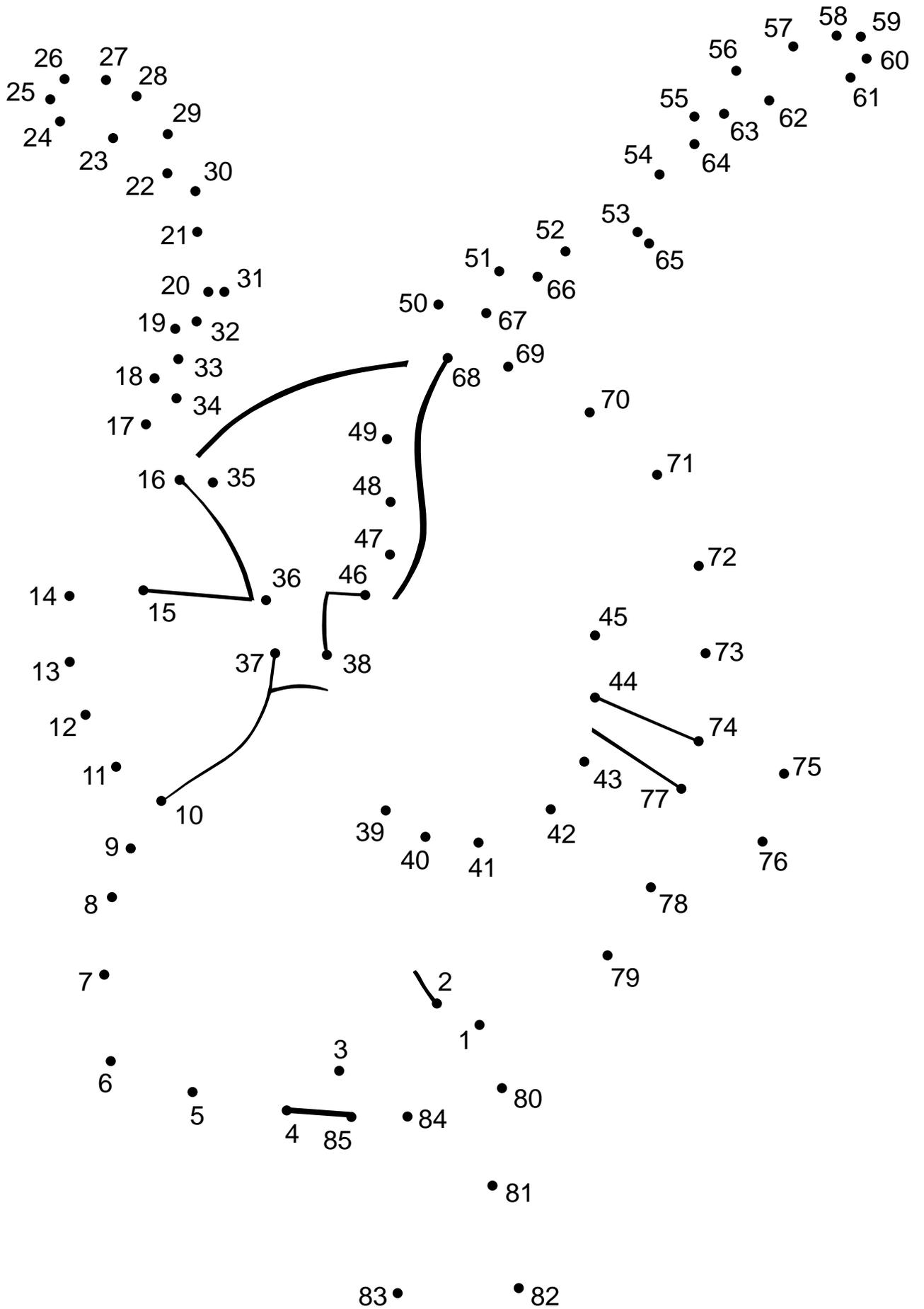
*Reserve*

*South*

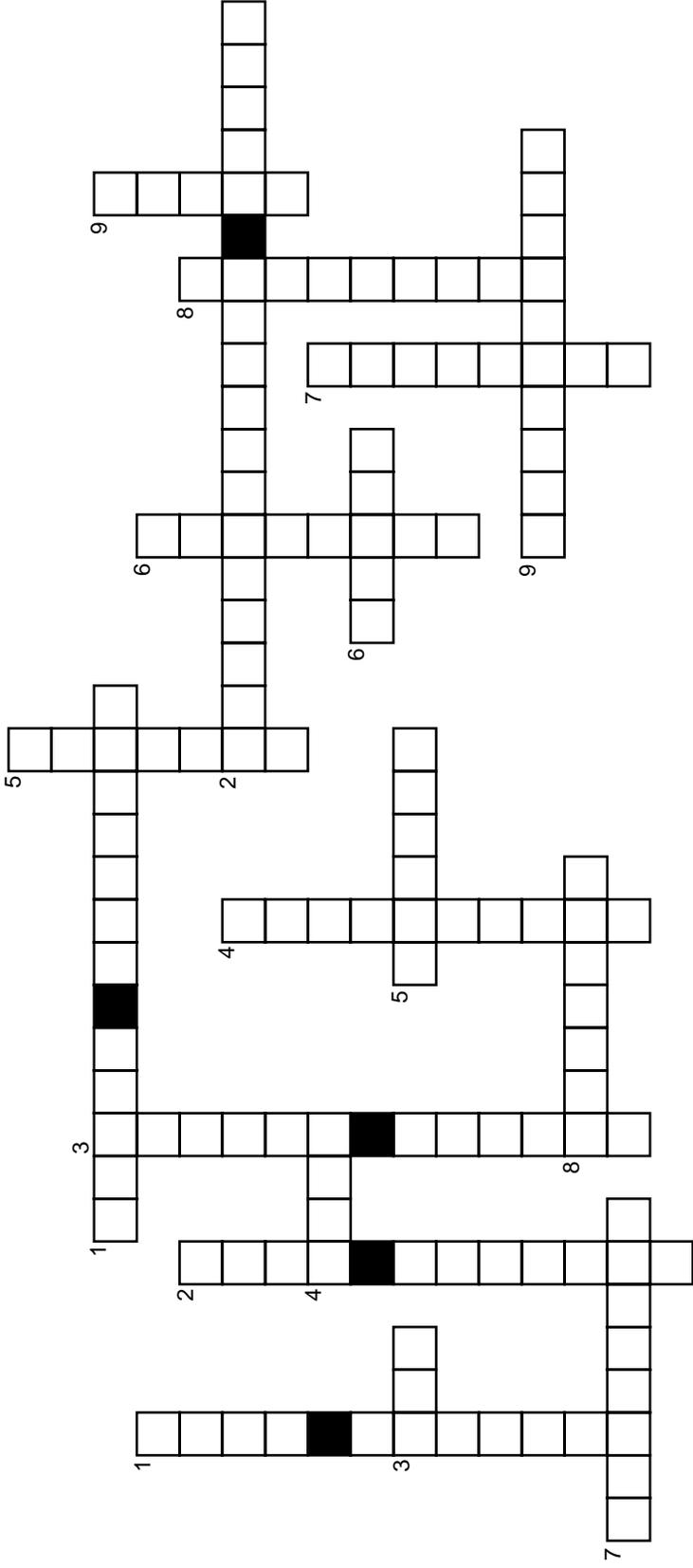
*America*

*United States*

# CONNECT THE DOTS



# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

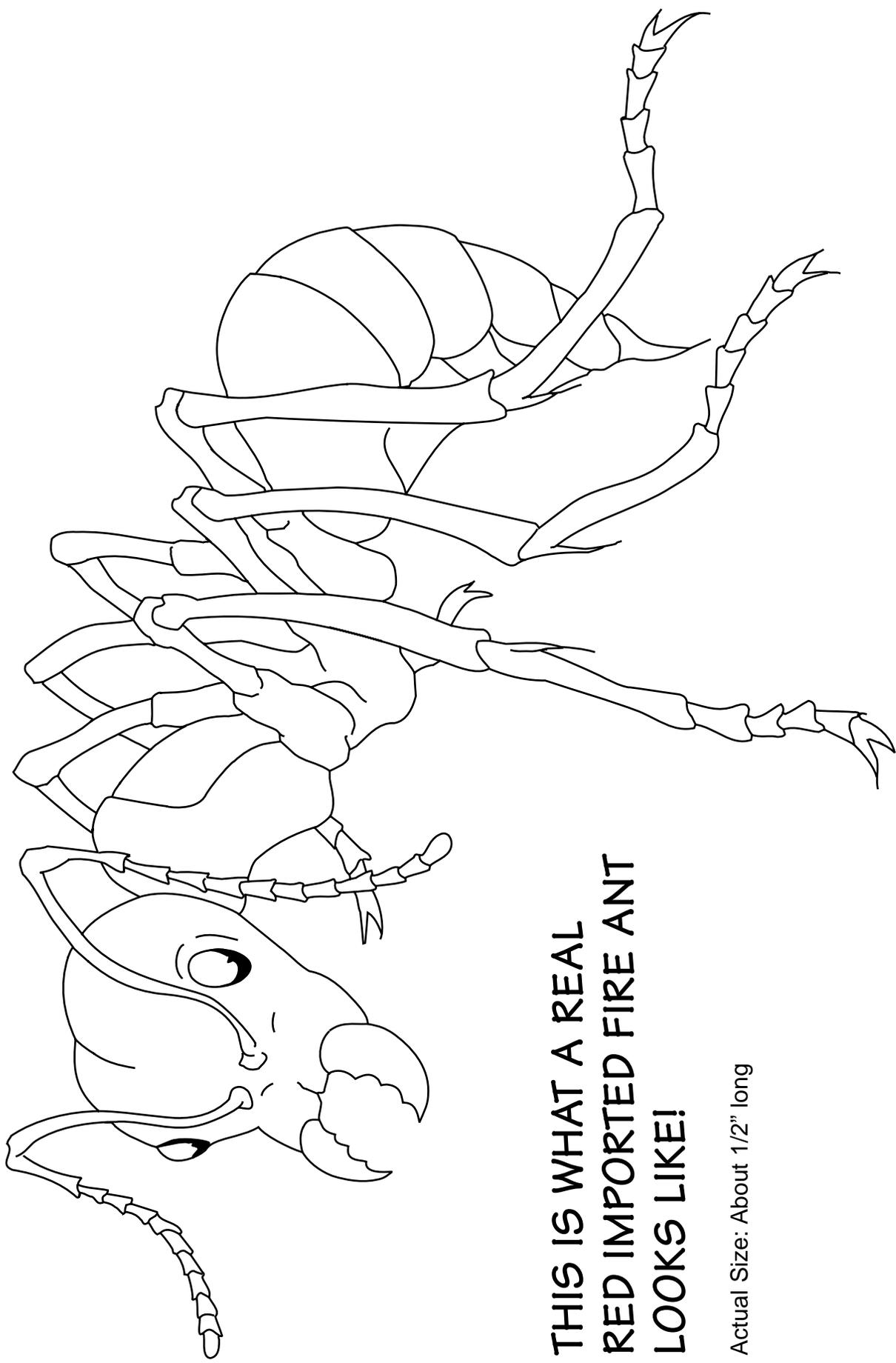


## ACROSS

1. Red Imported Fire Ants come from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Place Fire Ants like or where things are built.
3. Color of Fire Ants.
4. Fire Ants out compete other ants for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Fire Ants live in \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Type of Fire Ant that controls the colony.
7. Type of Fire Ant that makes tunnels and guards the mound.
8. Fire Ants have no \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Fire Ants are more \_\_\_\_\_ than other ants.

## DOWN

1. Place Fire Ants like or where kids play.
2. Place Fire Ants like or where a certain sport is played.
3. Red Imported Fire Ants have settled in the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Scent the Queen releases to control other ants.
5. Place Fire Ants like or when people eat outdoors.
6. Type of Fire Ant that gathers food.
7. Fire Ants came here on a ship, but it was an \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Animal that eats ants.
9. Type of Fire Ant that cares for the Queen, Larvae and Pupae.



**THIS IS WHAT A REAL  
RED IMPORTED FIRE ANT  
LOOKS LIKE!**

Actual Size: About 1/2" long

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Accidental** - an unintentional and unfortunate happening, something that happens unexpectedly, chance, fortune.

**Aggressive** - using daring or forceful methods, vigorously energetic.

**Ant** - any of a family of colonial hymenopterous insects, that live in highly organized colonies, various castes performing special duties.

**Anteaters** - any of several tropical New World mammals having a long snout and feeding on ants and termites.

**Colony** - a group of like organisms living or growing in close association.

**Compete** - to strive for an objective (a prize, position).

**Construction** - the act of constructing (building by putting together parts).

**Dangerous** - full of danger or risk, able or likely to cause injury.

**Enemy** - an opposing military force, one seeking to injure, overthrow or confound an opponent.

**Forager** - to wander or go in search of food.

**Imported** - to bring in from a foreign country or other source.

**Imported fire ant** - either of two mound-building South American fire ants (*Solenopsis richteri* & *Solenopsis invicta*) introduced into the southeastern U.S. that are agricultural pests and can produce sting requiring medical attention.

**Mound** - slightly raised ground.

**Native** - originating naturally in a particular region.

**Nurse** - one that looks after, advises, a member of an insect society that belongs to the worker caste and cares for the young.

**Pheromone** - any chemical substance released by an animal that influences the physiology or behavior of other members of the species.

**Protect** - to defend from attack, loss.

**Queen** - a female sovereign or monarch, a fertile ant, bee, termite, or wasp.

**Release** - to free from confinement, to let go.

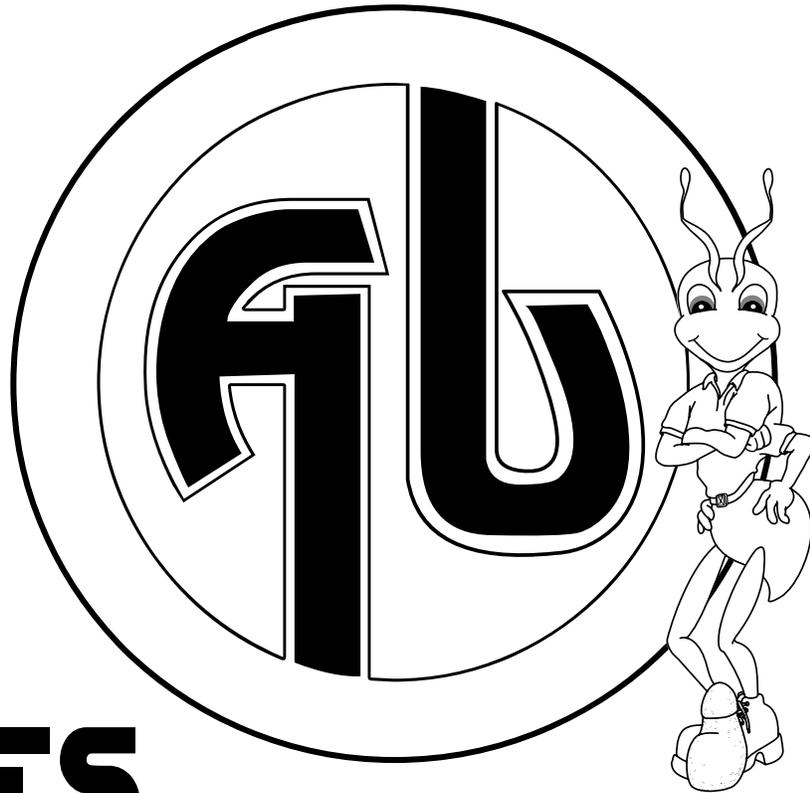
**Reserve** - a military force held in readiness, something kept for future use.

**Scent** - a distinctive odor, smell.

**Site** - a position or location, as of a town or building.

**Species** - a distinct sort or kind, composed of related individuals that are able to breed among themselves.

Use your dictionary to find other unknown words in the book!



# THE ANTS UNDERGROUND

*“The Hidden Truth About Red Imported Fire Ants” just scratches the surface of knowledge about these pesky little insects. To learn even more about Red Imported Fire Ants, explore “The Ants Underground.” “The Ants Underground” is an animated interactive CD-ROM that will transport you into the unique and exciting world of the ants. Your guide on the journey is Francine the native ant who explains these fire ants from the native ant’s point of view as they try to defend themselves against the invasion of the Red Imported Fire Ants.*

*Contact your County Cooperative Extension Service to get more information.*

**1930**



**1940**



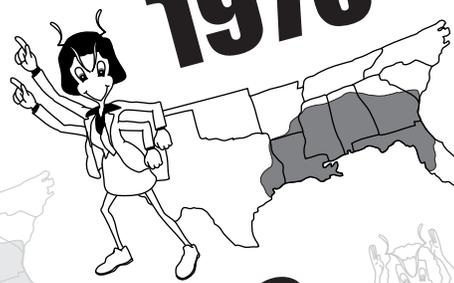
**1950**



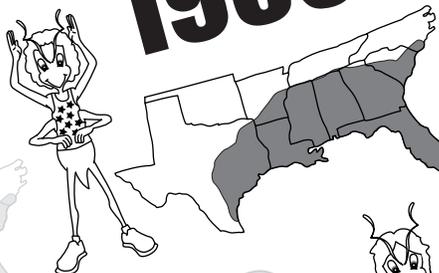
**1960**



**1970**



**1980**



**1990**

