



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.



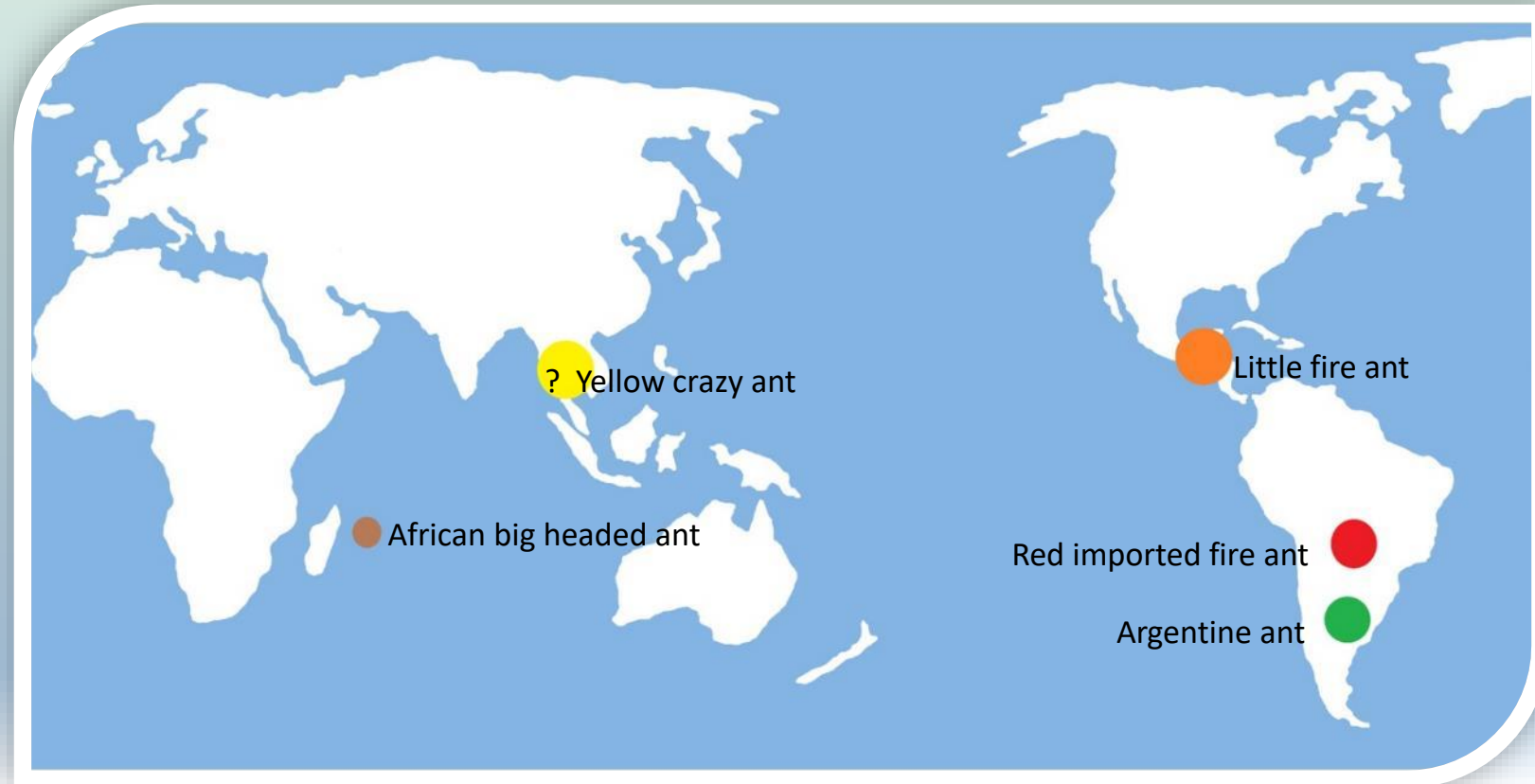
Let's recap

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?



Where might we find invasive ants?

How they come into the country:

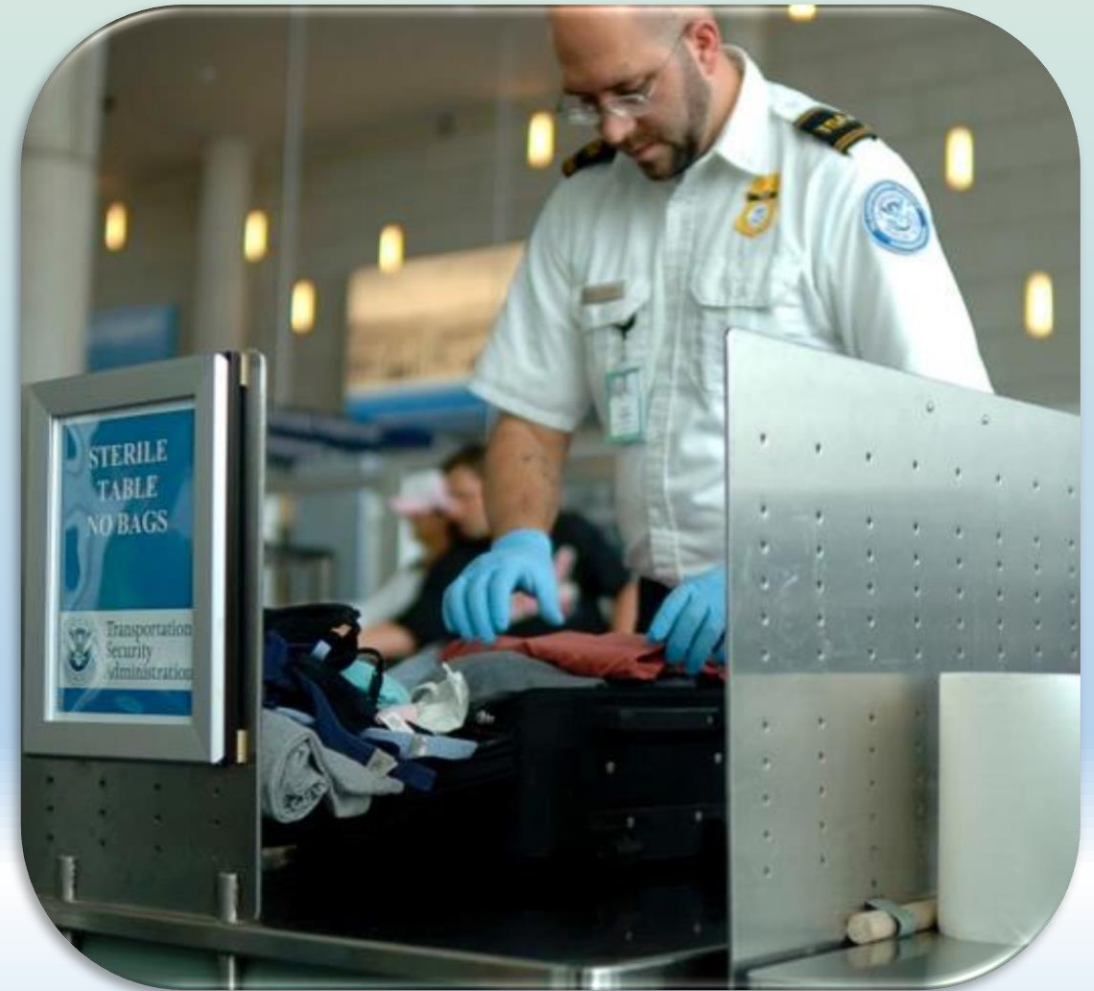
- Ports
- On ships
- Airports
- Unloading areas
- Storage areas



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



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.



Extension activity: Do it at home!

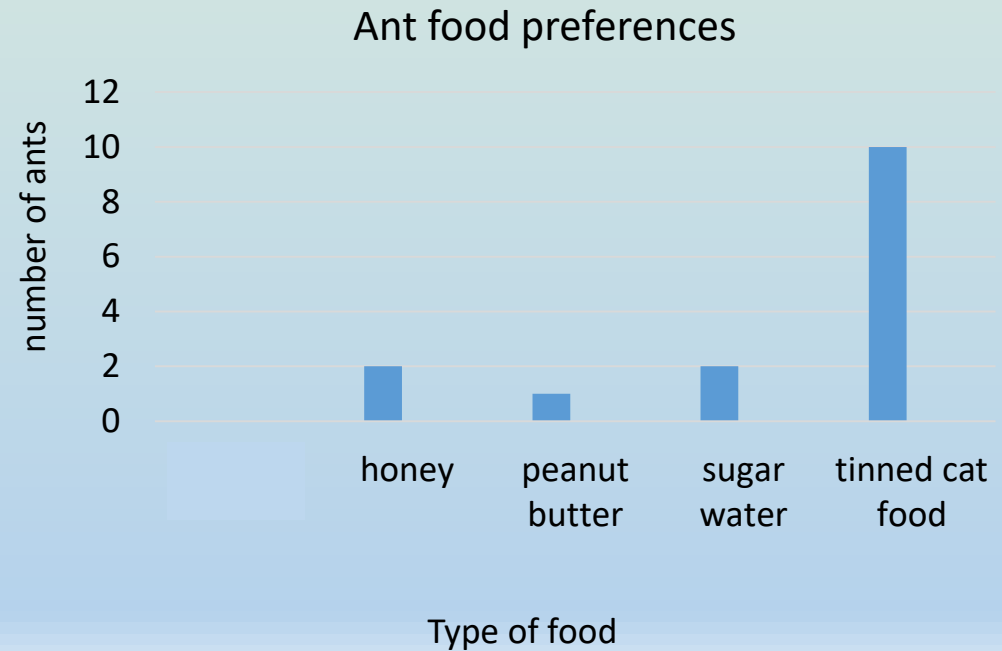
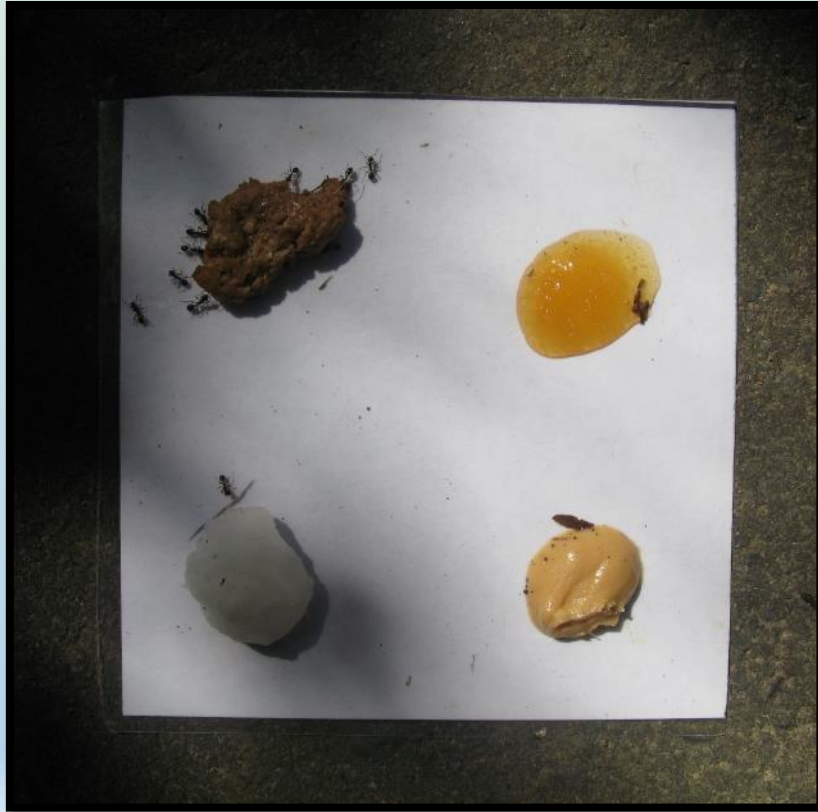
Attracting ants

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.



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).

See you next time!

