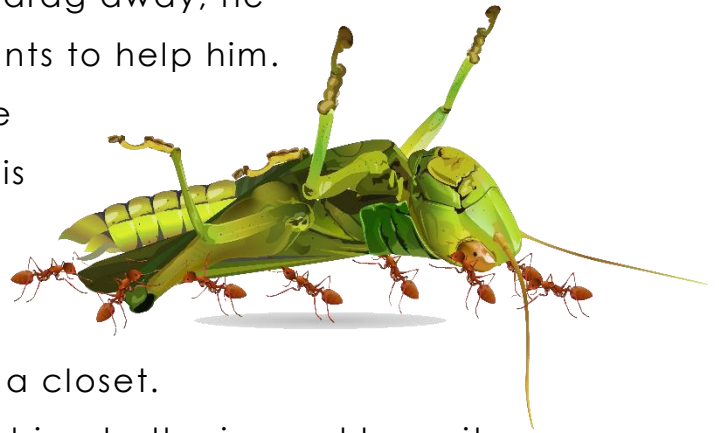


Read the short story. Then answer each question.

How Franklin Found out About Ants

Franklin thought that ants knew how to talk to one another. He thought that they talked by some kind of signs. When an ant had found a dead fly too big for him to drag away, he would run off and get some other ants to help him.

Franklin thought that ants had some way of telling other ants that there is work to do.



One day he found some ants eating molasses out of a little jar in a closet.

He shook them out. Then he tied a string to the jar and hung it from a nail in the ceiling. But he had not got all the ants out of the jar. One little ant liked sweet things so well that he stayed in the jar and kept on eating greedily.

At last, when this greedy ant had eaten all that he could, he started to go home. Franklin saw him climb over the rim of the jar and then run down the outside of the jar. But when he got to the bottom, he did not find any shelf there. He went all round the jar. There was no way to get down to the floor. The ant ran this way and that way, but he could not get down.

Finally, the greedy ant thought he would see if he could go up. He climbed up the string to the ceiling. Then he went down the wall to his own hole in the floor.

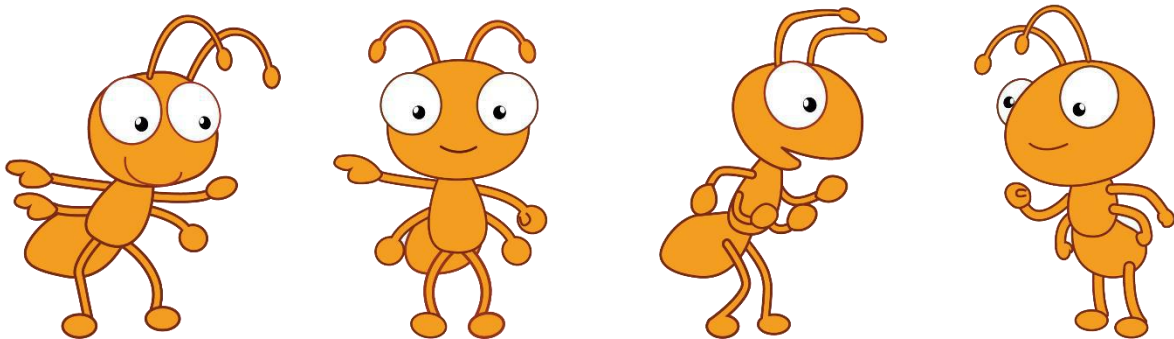
Grade 4 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

After a while the ant got hungry again. He thought about that jar of sweets at the end of a string. Then perhaps he told the other ants. Maybe he let them know that there was a string by which they could get down to the jar.

In about half an hour after the ant had gone up the string, Franklin saw a swarm of ants going down the string. They marched in a line, one after the other. Soon there were two lines of ants on the string. The ants in one line were going down to get at the sweet food. The ants in the other line were marching up the other side of the string to go home. Do you think that the greedy ant told the other ants about the jar?

Did he tell them that there was a string by which an ant could get there?

Did he tell it by speaking, or by signs that he made with his feelers?



Questions:

1. What did Franklin learn by watching ants?

2. How did the ant get home from the jar hanging in the ceiling?

3. Based on what you read what type of person is Franklin?

4. What do you think happened to the jar of molasses?

Answers:

1. What did Franklin learn by watching ants?

Franklin learned that ants communicate with each other.

2. How did the ant get home from the jar hanging in the ceiling?

The ant climbed up the string, along the ceiling and down the wall to get home.

3. Based on what you read what type of person is Franklin?

Franklin is an inquisitive person who likes to learn about things around him, such as ants.

4. What do you think happened to the jar of molasses?

Answers will vary, but one possible response: I believe the ants will eventually eat up all the molasses in the jar.