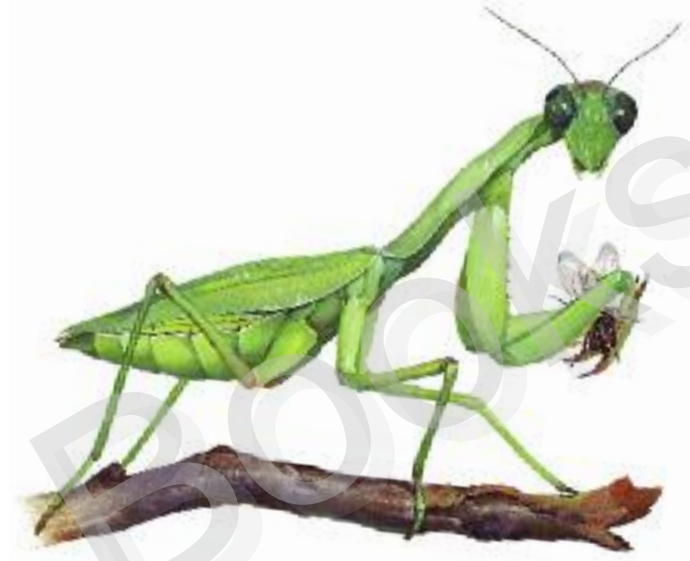


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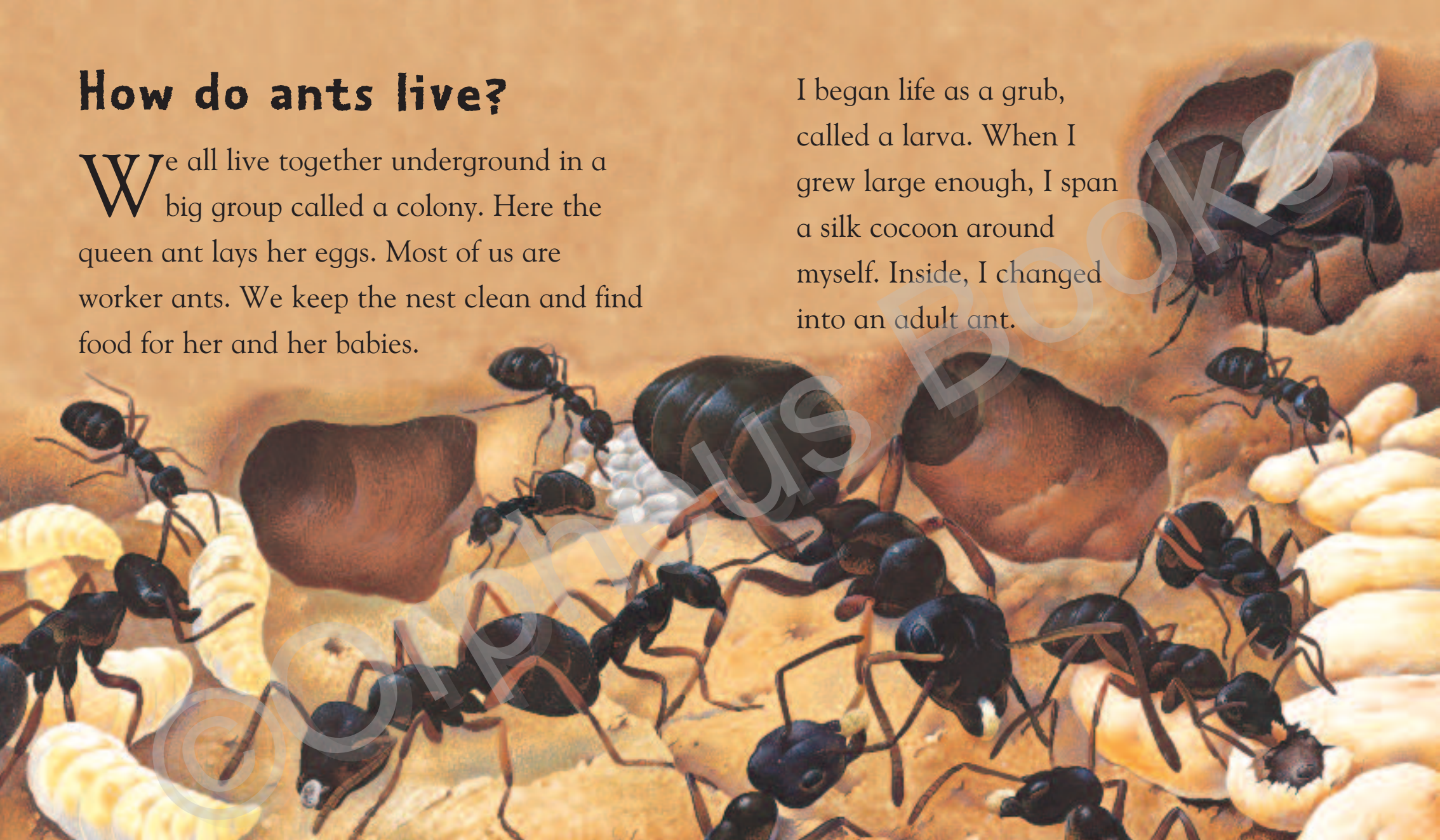
Insects


Did you know there are more kinds of insect than all the other kinds of animals put together? You'll know an insect when you see one. We've each got six legs and a body divided into three parts: a head, a thorax and an abdomen. Most of us can fly. All of us have stories to tell about our amazing lives ...

How do ants live?

We all live together underground in a big group called a colony. Here the queen ant lays her eggs. Most of us are worker ants. We keep the nest clean and find food for her and her babies.

I began life as a grub, called a larva. When I grew large enough, I spun a silk cocoon around myself. Inside, I changed into an adult ant.



An illustration of a tree branch with several leafcutter ants. Each ant is carrying a piece of a green leaf. The ants are brown and have a segmented body. The branch is brown and textured. The background is a soft, light green.

We leafcutter ants live in Central and South America. We cut out pieces of leaf with our jaws and carry them back to our nest. There we chew the leaves into a pulp so that a special fungus can grow on it. We then feed this fungus to the larvae.

We have extremely powerful jaws for cutting up leaves. We are also very strong little animals. We can carry pieces of leaf that are 20 times heavier than our own weight. That's the same as you lifting a load weighing a ton! Distance is no problem for us. We will happily travel hundreds of metres from our nest in our search for new leaves.